

table tennis news

Official Magazine of the English Table Tennis Association

Drinkhall

England's
summer superstar

Howard Jacobson

Provides an insight into
the hard bat legend -
Marty Reisman

Plus:

Skylet Andrew

John Hilton

and

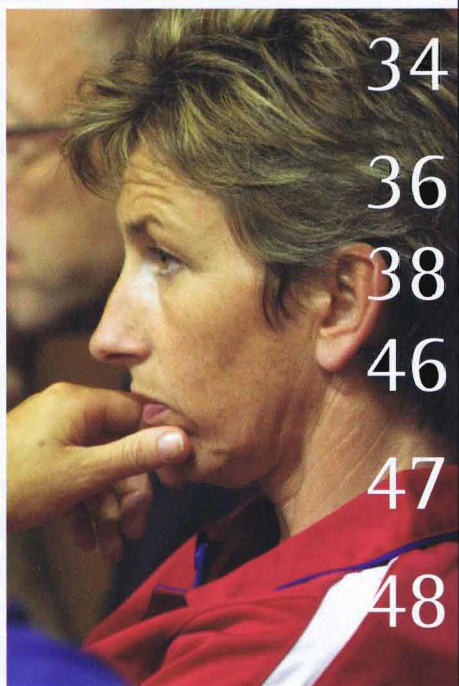
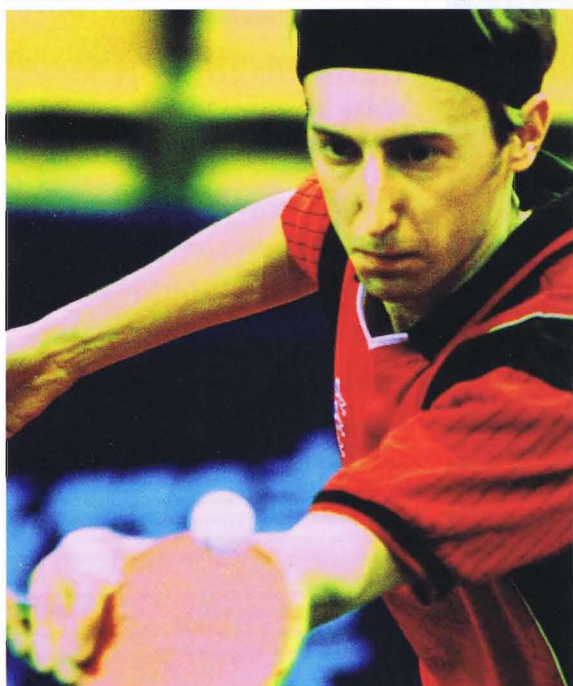
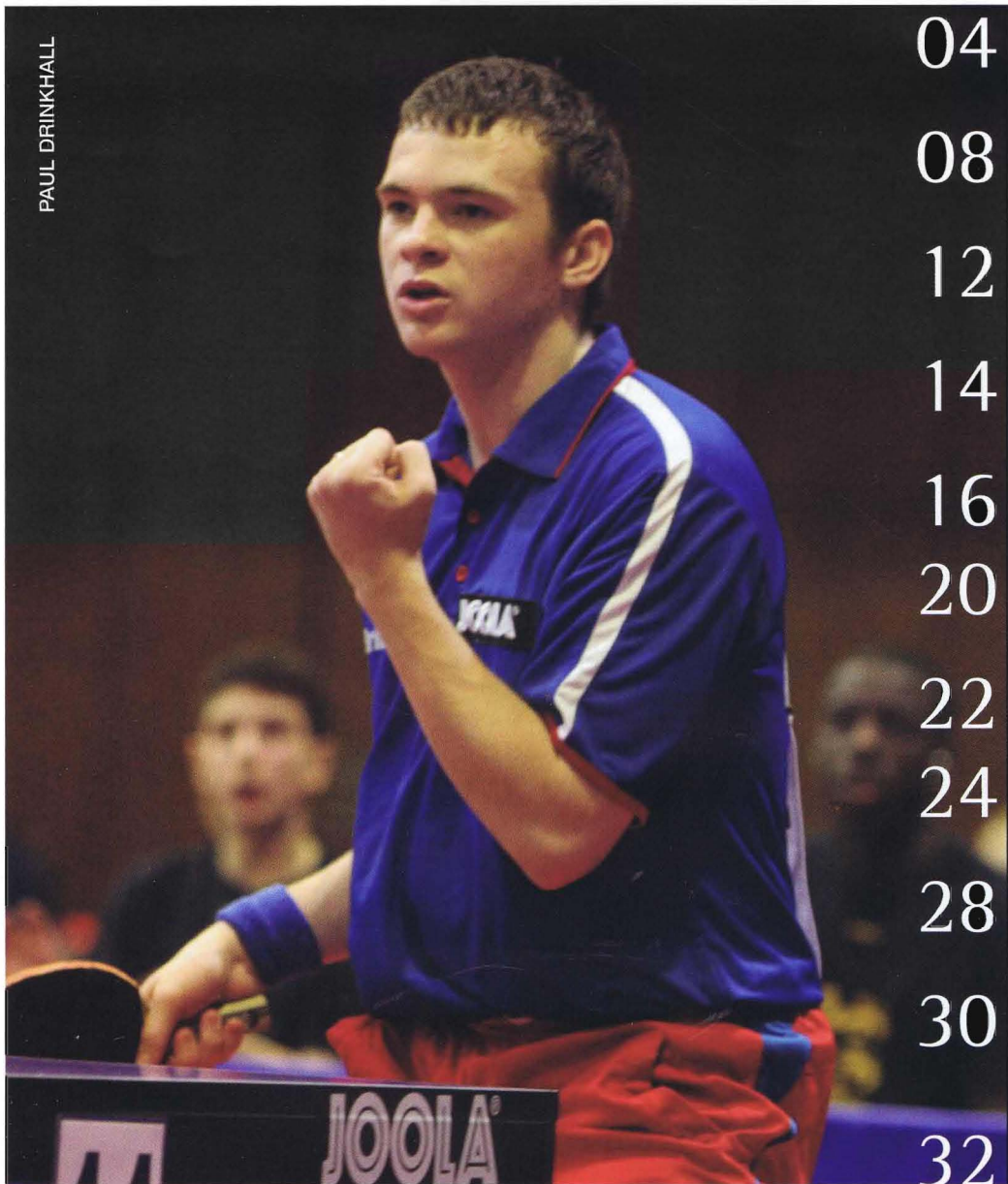
the latest news

and results



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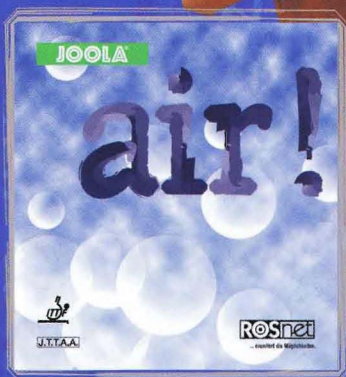
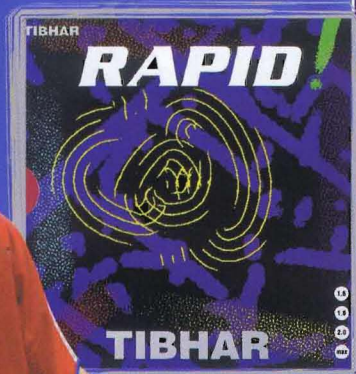
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from the editor



RICHARD PETTIT, EDITOR



HOWARD JACOBSON

A superb novelist and broadcaster, Howard Jacobson is best known to table tennis fanatics across the world as the author of 'The Mighty Walzer' released back in 1999.



MATTHEW SYED

Matthew is former English number one. He has a defensive style with the bat yet quite the opposite with the pen. Currently a Times columnist, TV sports commentator and media pundit.



JEREMY WILSON

Jeremy is a sports journalist who writes regularly for both The Guardian and The Sunday Times. He has also played senior and junior county table tennis for Hampshire.



PAUL RAINFORD

Paul worked as a journalist in London for several years but now runs Exmoor House, a small hotel in Exmoor. As a cadet he reached number two in England but sadly it's been downhill ever since.

Hello and welcome to this season's first Table Tennis News. With many of the leagues and competitions on the verge of starting or having just commenced this issue has somewhat of a reflective feel with a bright snappy, informative update to keep you going as the evenings draw in. So whilst your tan is fading and the sun bed becomes a distant memory, don't worry, the action on the table is once again hotting up.

We start with a special in-depth feature from our Chairman which provides some clarity to the BTTF effect, find out more on page 04. We then continue with more expertly crafted features from the likes of Paul Rainford, Matthew Syed and Jeremy Wilson as well as delving into tactical knowledge and philosophy of the service. In addition to this we have the latest from around the country in various guises, from our quick news updates to the British League review; it's all right here in your TTN.

That's not all. You may or may not have seen the recent table tennis documentary on the BBC; heavily featured was a man who called himself 'the needle'. In an era of black and white this man was one of the most colourful characters ever to grace our sport, and who better to craft us an exquisite piece of literature about the brash yet flamboyant, the egotistical yet brilliant Marty 'the needle' Riesman than the true master of the written word, Howard Jacobson. Flick to page 24 to indulge in the first of a three part special.

I hope you enjoy this issue and please continue to keep your content rolling in, whether it's a match point or just your point of view, please send it in (contact details on the left).

“SO LEGEND HAS IT JOHN HILTON WAS RATED NUMBER TWO IN ENGLAND, THREE IN LANCASHIRE AND FOUR AT THE MANCHESTER YMCA” **JEREMY WILSON PAGE 16** “THERE IS A GOOD REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT CHINA WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO CLAIM ARGUABLY THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS TITLE” **MATTHEW SYED PAGE 20** “FRICTIONLESS PIMPLES LED THEM TO ACHIEVE EXTRAORDINARY RESULTS” **BRIAN HALLIDAY PAGE 28** “A TALENTED LEFTHANDER WITH A DEVILISH REPERTOIRE OF SERVES WHICH THIS WRITER FOR ONE DISMALLY FAILED TO COPE WITH” **PAUL RAINFORD PAGE 30**

A positive summer

This is the first issue of Table Tennis News for the 2006/7 season which has started again in earnest with many local Leagues, Club and County programmes. I wish you all a competitive and enjoyable season with your team, club and league mates. I also wish to thank all the many volunteers for their work in setting up the programmes for this year.

The first UK School Sports event took place in Glasgow last weekend and our young players had a fantastic time meeting players from the other four sports in an "Olympic" environment. England had excellent results with us winning all the medals in both Team and Individual events for Boys and Girls apart from silver in the girl's singles. A more detailed report is available both in this magazine and on our website.



Drinkhall continues to have major successes in the International Arena winning both the Junior and Senior Events

Table Tennis was watched by a number of celebrities and key stakeholders in the Sporting World including Cherie Blair, Kelly Holmes, Duncan Goodhew, Richard Caborn (Minister of Sport), Sue Campbell (Chairman UK Sport and Youth Sport Trust), Sir Craig Reedie (Member of the International Olympic Committee) and Paul Deighton (Chief Executive London 2012)

BBC Television broadcast an excellent programme on the 17th September with highlights from this event and Table Tennis had comparative viewing time compared with the other four sports.

Next year's event has been won by the city of Coventry and details about dates will be advised later.

Paul Drinkhall continues to have major successes in the International Arena winning both the Junior and Senior Events in Madeira and the Doubles with Darius Knight further details have been on the website.

Paul and Darius have won a place in the European Junior Top 12 and our Junior Boys Team have also won a place in the World Junior Championships to be held in Cairo in December.

I must include Paul's fantastic achievement in getting to the last 64 in the Senior event at the China Open and his performance against the Olympic Champion Ryu Seung Min taking him to the seventh leg and just being beaten 13-11 after having previously had three match points. An outstanding achievement against one of the World's best. Paul is only 16

and still a Junior.

The ETTA Conference and Awards Dinner took place on the 16th/17th September with over 100 delegates. It was, in the view of those present, very successful, not just in the aspect of updates and information but from a motivational perspective.

The keynote speakers Liz Nicholl (UK Sport), Stephen Baddeley (Sport England) and last but not least Lord Colin Moynihan from the British Olympic Association and the London 2012 Organising Board gave an insight into how they operate, the opportunities for Sport and how they viewed the position of Table Tennis. Lord Moynihan came directly from a flight from Los Angeles such was the relevance he gave the conference.

It was quite clear that we are recognised and respected as a progressive and well managed National Governing Body with highly motivated and very hard working staff and volunteers.

It is clear though, we still have a long road ahead together, but the platform and opportunities are there for us to build on. London 2012 is six years away and it should be used as the catalyst for our sport to drive forward up to and beyond 2012.

I would like to reiterate a statement I made during the weekend, which I consider is very appropriate, "Amplify what is good and change what is not".

The first British Table Tennis assessment camp has been organised for 21st-23rd December for 20 girl and 20 boy players from the Home Countries from U12 to U14. This will give all the NGB coaches and the Performance Director an opportunity to assess our young talented players. This is in addition to our Youth Development Programme and Regional Training Programmes.

Many other initiatives are encompassed in our programmes over the coming years to support and attract the youngsters coming into our sport who will be our future players and volunteers at all levels.

The growth of our sport will be primarily via young people playing at school, in clubs, in local leagues and in the ETTA competition structure.

It is essential that the ETTA supports its grass roots structure and whilst not every one will represent England, increased participation and keeping players of all ages and abilities in table tennis is key to the future of our sport.

The BTTF effect

With London being the Host City for the Olympics in 2012 the landscape of sport in Great Britain is changing. In this issue I will give you some background about how this will impact our sport at the elite level and in later issues outline the impact upon our sport as a whole.

Those who attended the Conference were very fortunate to hear from keynote speakers from UK Sport, Sport England and the British Olympic Association about the future of sport and how London 2012 will make a significant difference up to and beyond the Olympics. A decision was made by the Government in March this year to increase significantly funding to support programmes for potential athletes following the Beijing Olympics 2008 with a goal of fourth place in the medal tables for the GB team in London 2012. UK Sport, the agency responsible for our elite athletes, will administer the funding.

Table Tennis has been initially awarded funding of £2.1M over a three year period up to March 2009 which is the first time a

The first British Table Tennis assessment camp has been organised for 21st-23rd December for 20 girl and 20 boy players from the Home Countries from U12 to U14.



Straight Talk

by Alex Murdoch
ET TA Chairman

major investment has been made in an elite programme for a GB team. Once the funding was announced the problems of how and who would put together a plan, administer the funding and train our GB players had to be formulated and agreed.

We are a sport which plays in all the major competitions apart from the Olympics as Home Countries, as for example football does. It was therefore essential that the independence of all the Home Countries including England was maintained but at the same time give table tennis the opportunity to participate in the Olympics in 2012 at a level which would give us a chance to get onto the podium.

Fortunately as a sport we had at least a starting point via an organisation called the British Olympic Table Tennis Federation (BOTTF) which had representatives from all the Home Countries and had been in existence for some time. Its prime role was to select players for previous Olympic qualification events and the Olympics itself. Only players highly ranked in the world get automatic entry and from GB at this time we have none.

The four Home Countries sat together and in agreement made a number of significant and for our sport progressive changes in the governance and administration of the Olympic programme for table tennis.

Whilst all of this was going on draft plans, financial arrangements, audits by UK Sport, and how we kept potential players trained during this time had to be put in place.

I have told you previously that the elite part of our Whole Sport Plan from Sport England was transferred to UK Sport from 1st April 2006. We therefore had to quickly establish who was paying for the ET TA performance staff and how were our players going to continue to be trained. Decisions and agreements were made by the BOTTF swiftly whilst the action plan was put in place, and all the present ET TA performance staff were transferred to the Olympic programme and the training of the nominated ET TA players maintained with a provisional plan.



We are a sport which plays in all the major competitions apart from the Olympics as Home Countries...

The BOTTF then had to get its house in order to run and be responsible for this new funding and meet the "funding triggers" put in place by UK Sport with the requirements they needed when audited by the Government in regard to the overall funding.

Just to briefly give you some idea on actions that have taken place during the last six months:

It was necessary to incorporate the BOTTF and put in place a

new board and a Performance Management Group (PMG) for selection and monitoring of the programme. Due to legal requirements of the new Olympic Bill we were not allowed to use the word "Olympic" in the name of the new company and had to seek permission for the word "British", which is now deemed a "sensitive" word. A new company was consequently formed on behalf of the Home Countries called British Table Tennis Federation Limited (BTTF).

The BTTF was approved as the national governing body for Table Tennis in GB but, being run by volunteers, how could the actual funding be controlled? Where would the funding be paid? Who wrote the cheques? Who generated the financial reports? A never ending list of questions were raised. The BTTF Board therefore decided with UK Sport that the ETTA would be the lead nation and a service level agreement was formulated and agreed between all those concerned.

A Performance Management Group was set up with individuals who have the expertise to control and monitor the programme and to ensure that representation and involvement from all the Home Countries was satisfied. This group included the Performance Manager, a representative from UK Sport and an Accountable Officer who will be Richard Yule, Chief Executive of the ETTA.

The funding award was split into a number of components based upon a standard model for all sports generated by UK Sport. We were given the opportunity to put forward various cases in regard to this funding and how we believed it could be best used. By the middle of August these negotiations were concluded.

UK Sport appointed an audit company to review the ETTA and the BTTF, this report has been finished and with a few minor actions we have to take, both organisations are "fit for purpose".

Player's agreements are needed for each individual within the programme to ensure his or her accountability and ours, which will be concluded in October.

The Draft Performance Plan was submitted in August and UK Sport made a few recommendations and final approval is expected as I write this article.

The final budget and cash flows will be completed during the next couple of weeks, a draft budget and cash flow was compiled some months ago which has to be updated following the negotiations on the funding mentioned earlier.

The initial "funding triggers" have been met and we were awarded a number 1 category in a recent announcement by UK Sport.

OK that's all the paperwork, how do we get medals and what programmes are being put in place to meet these goals?

Firstly let me step back a little. The funding arrangements are awarded into three areas. The Olympic Podium Programme (OPP) for players and sports which have medal potential in 2008. The Olympic Development Programme (ODP) for players with medal potential for 2012, and a Talent Programme (TP) for players who could replace shortfalls in the ODP and also for young players who may have the potential to move up to the ODP in the coming years.

Our sport has been categorized up to March 2009 in the Development Programme with the potential to move some of our players into the Podium Programme during the next round

of funding awards in 2009 if we meet the targets set by our Performance Director and UK Sport.

We have agreed with UK Sport to have up to 18 players in the ODP and up to 20 in the TP. The PMG have initially agreed to have 11 players in the ODP whilst the places for the TP will be decided by the PMG in December.

I think it is imperative that this Olympic funding is targeted and used to get this small squad of players to a level which enables us to convince our funding partners that some of those in the ODP are good enough to move into the OPP, which will result in our sport being granted additional support from the next funding cycle which starts in 2009.

Questions are asked about what the ETTA will do to ensure those not in these two groups are supported. We still have in our budget money allocated to support England and potential England players. This will be used to ensure that where possible full complements of players can attend major events. Together with the Youth Development Squad, the new programme to assist at regional Level and the TASS funding training programmes, every support will be made available to the players.



The initial "funding triggers" have been met and we were awarded a number 1 category in a recent announcement...

The National Training Centre is always on our minds and is a must for the future. The funding from UK Sport will not allow us to have an under 16 academy but should from April next year enable us to form a National Training Centre for the over 16s with our younger players attending but not being residential.

The initial funding from UK Sport was never intended for England/BTTF to have a full time academy. For us to take away a substantial amount of this funding from our potential medallists and their training programme and use it to cover the costs of care and other critical services legally required for the under 16s would be illogical and not in the best interests of our sport at this moment in time.

It still remains the responsibility of the ETTA to put in programmes and make resources available to cater for our young potential talent and you can be assured that we are discussing and negotiating with many people to get a full academy in place as soon as practical and sustainable for the benefit of the players, staff, volunteers, parents and our sport.

I hope this gives you some background and welcome your comments and ideas.

NEWS

Double Happiness

World's largest Table Tennis company agrees to a long-term sponsorship deal



The world's largest Table Tennis company, Double Happiness (DHS - Shanghai, China) has agreed to a long-term sponsorship deal with the eight-times British League Champions, London Progress. The sponsorship agreement is one of the best ever for a UK Table Tennis club and is a real boost for London Progress in its determination to develop the sport in the capital.

This is the first time DHS has looked to seriously invest in the UK market, having been the official equipment supplier at the last three Olympics and official supplier to the Chinese national team which has a very high profile in world Table Tennis.

In a deal negotiated by TLinks (the sole UK importer of DHS equipment) Charlie Childs (Sales Director) says: 'What a fantastic opportunity to create a great partnership between the world's

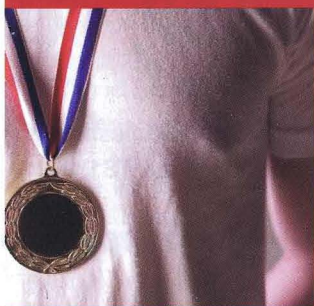
largest Table Tennis company and the most successful UK club over the last decade'.

London Progress are really excited about the new deal, which will see the HQ at Southall transformed with a completely new range of DHS equipment, and the British League teams re-branded DHS London Progress for the start of the 2006/07 campaign.

A key consideration for this deal was the community focus of the London Progress club and the 2012 Olympics in the city. Charlie Alvarez (London Progress, Head Coach) enthused: 'We are really looking forward to using DHS rubbers and blades this season, great equipment, as used by the Chinese Olympic and World Champions!'

To find out more about Double Happiness Table Tennis equipment or to request a TLinks catalogue visit www.tlinks.com.

wonder of Wetherill



David Wetherill is a name you might not be too familiar with but if the 16 year Plymouth League player has anything to do with it, you soon will. David is ambitious and recently won gold and silver medals at the Disability Sport England Table Tennis Championships in Grantham.

David suffers from a multibone and joint condition and whilst it is one of the most disabled conditions for stand-up players, he's not let it get him down. He won the gold medal in the singles event racing through at least five rounds without dropping a game.

Then he and partner Chris Cattell moved smoothly through to the final of the doubles only to be beaten in a five set thriller.

Practice takes up between 10 and 12 hours a week and in a typical year he might play in six or seven internationals. And he's a busy lad. What with training camps and internationals he's not got a free weekend until late November so getting eight A stars and three A grades in his recent GCSE exams was quite a performance.

His aim now is to win a place at the Beijing Paralympics in 2008. "Beijing is a possibility and London 2012 a real definite," he says. But it's going to be tough. According to David to qualify for Beijing you have to be European champion or in the world top 10 and then if you are not at that level there are five wild cards that could get you through the backdoor...

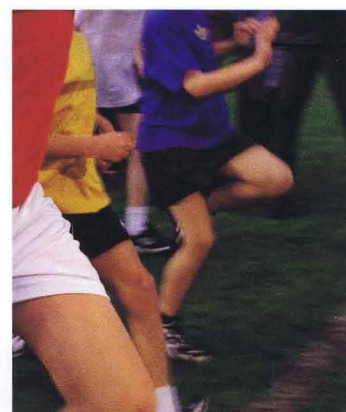
“This is the first time DHS has looked to seriously invest in the UK market...”

The appointment of Sir Clive Woodward as the British Olympic Association's director of elite performance in the run up to the 2012 Olympics in London has been a big talking point among the 26 Olympic sports - including our own.

It was clearly an appointment that not many expected and many sports officials question exactly what Woodward's job will entail.

Richard Yule, our Chief Executive said: “ He obviously has the expertise that could help the BOA, but whether he can help individual coaches remains to be seen. As far as I know he has no experience of racquet sports, which is a very specific area, so we have no idea whether he will be able to help us or not. But we will be happy to work with him to see what he has to offer.”

Woodward, a successful businessman before he entered sport, won his spurs when he took England to the pinnacle of Rugby Union by winning the World Cup in 2003. Then he was made technical support director at Southampton Football Club before this latest move. Now many Olympic sports are waiting to see what his next move will be....



Mason Haley, a sports mad nine year old, has struck gold for the second year running at the British Transplant Games.

Mason, from Cleator Moor, successfully defended his children's table tennis title after first scooping the honour at last year's competition.

But his defence did not go according to plan when parents Maria and David discovered they'd each forgotten to pack Mason's table tennis bat and ball. David said: “We each thought the other had packed it but we soon discovered we'd left it behind at home. We had to go rushing around trying to borrow one.”

Mason narrowly missed out on another medal at the games, held last weekend at Bath University.

He crossed the line in fourth place in the final of the 50 metre sprint.

Kong in trouble

China's former Olympic table tennis champion Kong Linghui was detained by police after he crashed his car into a taxi in a drink-driving incident.

Kong, 31, won Olympic doubles gold at the 1996 Atlanta Games and the singles title at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

China's coach Liu Guoliang said: “I hope other members of the team can learn from this. Kong's accident is a warning to us.”

Kong was initially fined over the incident but could still be jailed. He was not expected to compete at the Beijing Olympics in 2008 because of his age, but was assuming more of a coaching role.



Tees Summer School

Tees Sport Summer School celebrated its 30th anniversary at the final night dinner of this year's course held in Durham between 14 and 19 August.

One of the highlights of the evening was a presentation to a very special participant, Alan Holmes of Malvern in Worcestershire. Alan received from Course Director Alan Ransome a £250 voucher to mark Alan's excellent involvement in Tees Sport Summer School. Alan has been a course member for 29 of the 30 years of the school, having missed only one - the first year in 1977. Alan uses his skill developed at the school to best effect in the Malvern League where he has been a regular player throughout. Tees Sport Summer School ran successfully again this year with coaches Matthew Syed, Alan Cooke, Jason Sugrue and Steven Bailey in addition to Course Director Alan Ransome. More than 2,000 players have attended the course over the 30 year period.

The 31st year is booked for Durham from 13 to 18 August 2007. For details contact Steven Bailey at Tees Sport or visit the Tees Sport website at www.teessport.com.



Fosters take 100 Club to Parliament

An unforgettable 40th birthday...

A tour of the Houses of Parliament including the House of Commons and House of Lords is, for most people, little more than wishful thinking.

For a start you cannot simply walk in and have a look around. Security, these days, is tight and demands that only invitations are considered.

But for those lucky enough to receive the go-ahead, as the ETTA's 100 Club was on its 40th anniversary, it was to be a journey of a lifetime.

From the moment you walk into the cavernous yet splendid St Stephen's entrance hall you know you are entering somewhere special. The place is full of history and literally makes you feel very small. But that's only the beginning.

“the history of the place, the laws that have been passed, the debates, the infighting between leaders, makes a visit very special”

The tour, hosted by Hastings MP Michael Foster and his wife Rosemary, takes you through the Members Lobby with its marble statues of recent prime ministers, to pass rows of Hansards that have reports of every word and syllable that has ever been uttered. A minute taker's nightmare, but what precious words...

Then, suddenly, you reach the House of Commons and the opportunity to see and learn about the history of this most famous room in the land.

In reality it looks smaller than you see it on TV. But the history of the place, the laws that have been passed, the debates, the infighting between leaders, makes a visit very special.

The tour continues around the even more impressive House of Lords where archbishops and bishops have frequented for centuries. The fact that both Houses were empty on our visit made little or no difference to the sanctity of the place.

You could imagine and almost hear the Churchills, Atlees, Chamberlains and MacDonaldis holding audience and standing in exactly the same place as you are. Emotions could easily overflow in a place like this.

Then dinner in the splendid Churchill Dining Room which included a first class menu followed by drinks on the famous veranda overlooking the River Thames. A witty speech from Mr Foster was followed by toasts and presentations to both hosts and to Doreen Stannard, Secretary of the Club and Chairman Mike Holt, who together had masterminded this once in a lifetime visit.

So an evening full of history, emotion and splendour and certainly one to remember. In ten years' time another milestone will be reached when the Club reaches its 50th birthday. A bit of advice - I should start planning now because this 40th bash will take some beating!

A-List

Celebrities playing table tennis...

Middlesbrough's £6 million transfer of Robert Huth from Chelsea was not confirmed by the Premier League until lunchtime the day after the deadline was shut due to the confusion caused by Chelsea's protracted pursuit of Ashley Cole. A nervous Huth, Gareth Southgate and Keith Lamb “played table tennis and had a bite to eat while they awaited news. Confirmation finally came at 1pm.”

A nervous Huth, Southgate and Lamb “played table tennis and had a bite to eat while they awaited news.”

Andrea goes First Class

Former England table tennis champion and current North West Regional Development Officer Andrea Holt graduated with a First Class degree in Community Sports Development. She studied and worked full-time but said if it had not been for her flexible working hours she would not have been able to juggle both commitments. Andrea has worked for the Association for 2 years, and is based at Bolton's MBC sport, health and inclusions unit. Many of you will



HOLT

remember Andrea from her exceptional playing career which saw her take five National titles and represent Britain twice at the Olympic Games.

Andrea said: 'I've been very lucky to have flexible working hours but I have had to work smart; be effective and efficient. My degree has really helped me with my job and I have really enjoyed it. I got a lot of one-to-one support which was of great help'.

Andrea's was a double celebration as well. Also graduating with her, in the same subject, with a 2:1, was her boyfriend John Power who is a public and private sector coach.

Reminder of success

ITTF Museum headquarters in Lausanne has taken on a valuable piece of equipment - the Olympic torch. The torch, which went round the world in advance of the Athens Games in 2004, arrived at ITTF HQ last month and will be on display in the Olympic section.

It arrived thanks to the efforts of Emmanuel Kolibadis, General Secretary of the Hellenic TT Association, and is the second torch the Museum has on display. They already have the torch from the Seoul Olympics in 1988. "It's marvellous, it really adds to the exhibition," said Chuck Hoey, the ITTF Museum Curator. "It will act as a reminder of the success of the table tennis events at the Athens Games."

Please keep your stories rolling in, this is an excellent area in which to showcase your club's and your personal achievements. We will consider all content, so don't delay get in contact via phone 01424 456217 or email richard.pettit@etta.co.uk

Creating interest...

Table tennis is playing a big part in bringing the Chinese community together in Humberside. A recent tournament organised by Alan Ip of the Lincoln Chinese Community Association and held at the Birchwood Leisure Centre, saw 30 players attend with the oldest 74 year old Pak Kam and the youngest 14 year old Daniel Yau.

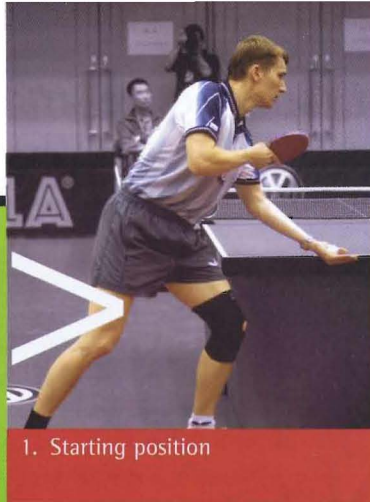
"Winning and losing is not important, but creating an interest is paramount to the success of these events," said Mr Ip. "The main reason we organised the tournament was to create an interest in sport so the community can lead a healthier lifestyle. But we need to involve the youngsters more so they feel a sense of belonging among their own communities."



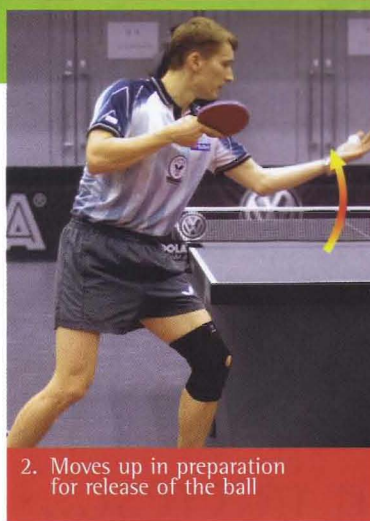
Antony Fung, owner of the worlds' largest Table Tennis bat producing factory meets up with Paul and Alan Hydes on a visit to the Lion Factory in China.

contact points >

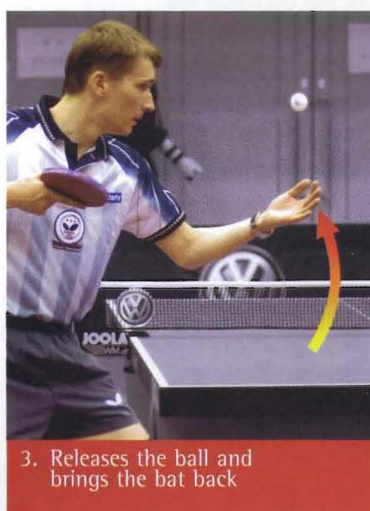
resources produced by
ETTA and ITTF



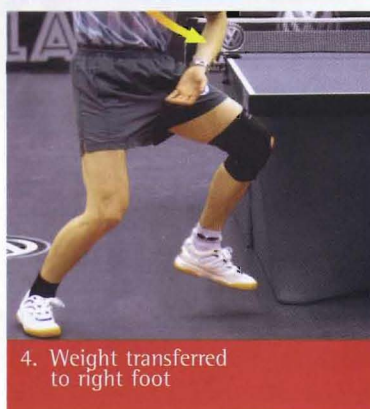
1. Starting position



2. Moves up in preparation for release of the ball



3. Releases the ball and brings the bat back



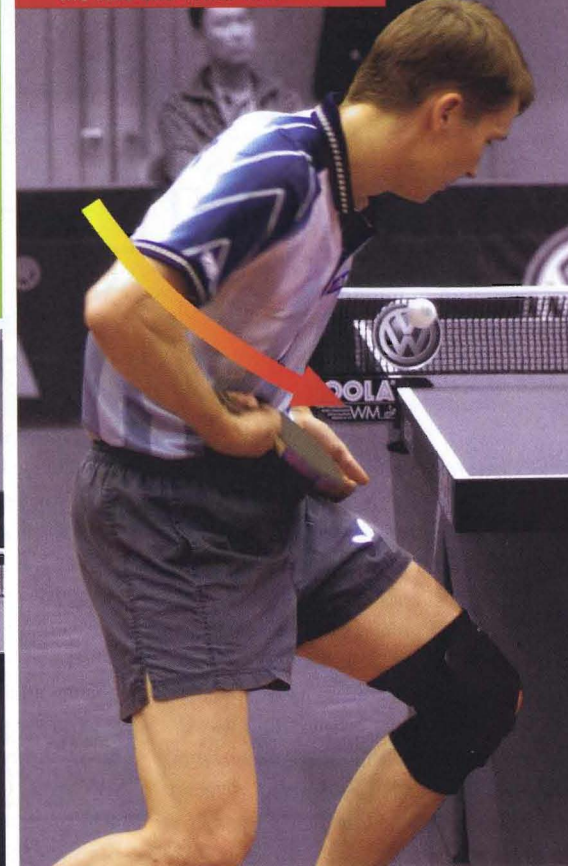
4. Weight transferred to right foot

By picturing the ball as a clock face, we can comprehend the simplest example of spin. Contacting the ball with a brushing action of:

- 2 -12 in upward direction = topspin
- 4 -6 in downwards direction = backspin
- 3 or 9 in a sideways direction (going round the side of the ball) = sidespin

However, multiple variations can be made by altering the position of contact and the direction of the bats movement. To simplify and increase the understanding of the contact point between ball and bat, we will split up in the bat into several zones. We will call the middle of the bat C for Centre etc.

6. Uses wrist to generate maximum speed, bat contacting ball on the side and lower half



Deceive & astonish

The ultimate introduction to your opponent is to fizz an unreturnable masterpiece across the net.

SERVICE

The ultimate introduction to your opponent is to fizz an unreturnable masterpiece across the net. Over the next few issues we will delve into the tactics, variations and techniques to help you develop an alluring armoury of serves that will deceive and astonish, the first of which is the forehand sidespin/backspin serve, but before we investigate that it is important to highlight a few key issues.

CONSIDERATIONS

A good service is performed with the use of the whole body and not only by use of the arm and wrist. The forehand serve enables a superior wrist action providing the ability to impart a greater level of spin, but whichever serve you decide to unleash it is crucial to retain suppleness within the wrist.

Speed, spin, length: - to allow acceleration in the playing arm there needs to be sufficient space between the arm and body, and the bat and the ball.

Direction, deception, imagination: - focus should also be on the position of the feet, weight transference and the ability to deceive your opponent as to the spin on the ball.

SERVICE PHILOSOPHY

With the shortened length of the modern game, rallies are often confined to a quick burst of four to five shots maximum; this heightens the importance of your service, creating an increased demand for imagination and variation to catch your opponent off guard.

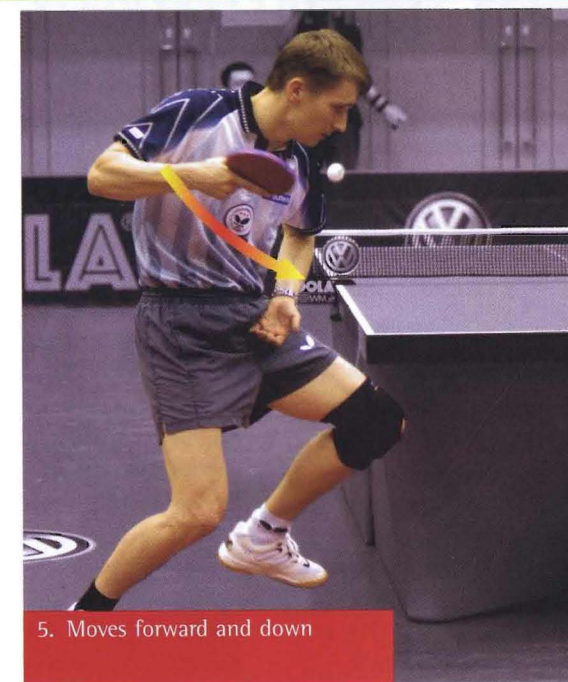
It is very important that you develop individual service philosophy with a set of four or five serves you feel confident with. It is also essential you not only think about what you want from your serve but consider and capitalise on your opponent's weaknesses.

FOREHAND SERVE - SIDESPIN/BACKSPIN

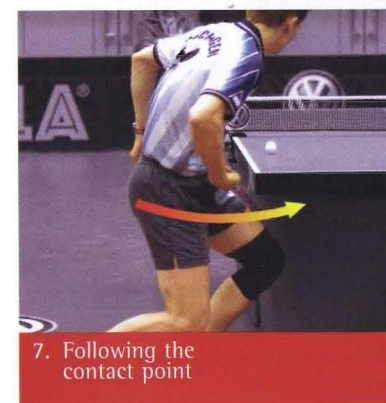
This serve is used as a variation to the topspin/sidespin serve. As many of the top players have a good return with forehand on this serve, the best placement is short to the backhand. The angle wide to the forehand is eliminated by the placement of this serve. Some variation of direction can be useful.

To be able to serve down the line it is important that the server has contact point about 30 cm from the corner of the table (clearly demonstrated by Schlager within the illustrations). The playing arm movement must be high to apply the wrist action with maximum effect, plus supply greater acceleration prior to the point of contact.

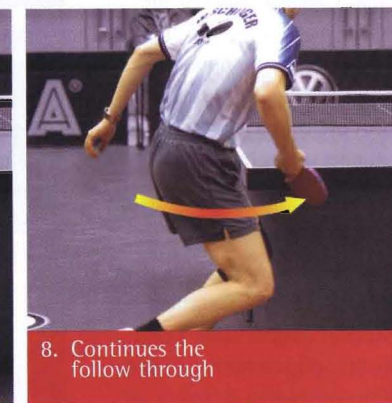
Another consideration is to make sure the contact point is close to the table; this will provide a flat bounce. The contact point needs to be on the NW of the bat face (refer to diagram), also the first bounce should aim to be close to the middle of the table, this will ensure that the pace of the service is maintained. Too close to the net will result in a high and slow serve with inevitable implications.



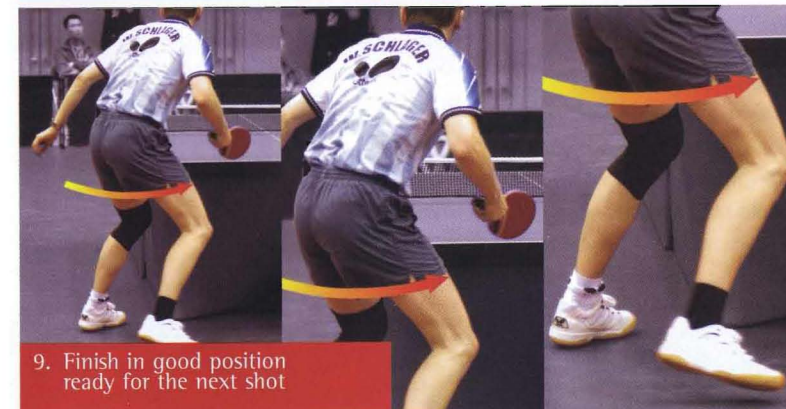
5. Moves forward and down



7. Following the contact point



8. Continues the follow through



9. Finish in good position ready for the next shot

tactics in brief

A short serve is used to capitalise on an opponent who is weak whilst playing close to the table or if the player's starting position is too far away from the table.

A half long serve is used against players who have a good flick and are strong close in.

A long fast serve is used as a surprise element and to get the ball in play. It is also useful if the players starting position is too close to the table.

This is a very general tactical explanation but it highlights the point that if you are tactically astute you will reap the rewards.

ENGLAND

Has it been bright sunny days or gloomy wet weekends for the England Teams this summer? Here are some of the highlights...

UK School Games Glasgow

Top Table Tennis talent gathered in Glasgow for the first UK School Games. This was no ordinary competition for Under 18 players. It was billed as the showcase for top level competitors and the launch pad for young athletes dreaming of success at the London Olympics of 2012. The Table Tennis players representing Scotland, Ireland, Wales and five English Regions shared the stage with competitors from the sports of Athletics, Fencing, Gymnastics and Swimming. The level of competition across the five sports was quite incredible.

The Opening Ceremony held in the Clyde Auditorium signalled the start of activities and showed the warmth of the welcome from Glasgow. The Duke of Gloucester officially declared the Games open.

The Table Tennis Championships were held at Scotstoun Leisure Centre with top players displaying a high level of skill which augers well for the future. In the Boys' Team Final, England - North (Ben Barlow, Paul Drinkhall, David Meads and Daniel Reed with NPC Dave Pilkington) proved too strong for England - East Midlands (Bradley Evans, Gavin Evans, Myles Evans and Tim Yarnall with NPC Paul Birch) recording a 4-0 win. In the Girls' Final, England - West Midlands (Fiona Dennett, Caroline Hallows, Jordyn Layfield and Kelly Sibley with NPC Gail Johns) overcame England - South East (Rachel Jamieson, Jessica Macken, Sarra Wang and Gemma Yarnley with NPC Gemma Chapman) with a 4-0 win following group and knockout competitions.

English players did not have it all their own way in the Individual Championships. David

Owen (Wales) and Craig Howieson (Scotland) reached the last 16 with Keith Knox (Northern Ireland) reaching the last 8. The Boys' Final was contested by Daniel Reed (England - South East), and Paul Drinkhall, who took first place with scores of 13-11, 8-11, 11-3, 11-7. In the Girls' Individual Championships Scotland's Corinna Whitaker reached the quarter finals before losing to Emma Vickers (England - East Midlands), and Naomi Owen (Wales) reached the final with comfortable 3 set wins in each round. However, Kelly Sibley took the final 11-6, 11-9, 11-8 to become the inaugural UK School Games Champion.

The event came to a spectacular close at the Scottish Exhibition Centre with the announcement that Coventry will host the 2007 Games and the handing over of the UK School Games flag. There is no doubt that these three days in Glasgow laid a strong foundation for this event as it grows with the inclusion of additional sports in years to come.

Panasonic China Open

Paul Drinkhall talents are beginning to stand out at international level, continually touted as the future of English table tennis Drinkhall is really living up to his name. With two years left at junior level he is now making even the finest of table tennis talents stand up and listen.

This proved to be arguably the finest performance of the young Englishman's career so far, qualifying for the first round proper of an ITTF Pro Tour for the second time the 16 year old from Middleborough came up against a dream opponent in the

shape of reigning Olympic Champion Ryu Seung Min.

For most facing such an illustrious opponent would prove far too ominous a task but, as Drinkhall took to the table he demonstrated maturity and level head far beyond his years giving the Korean ace a closer examination than anyone had managed at the Olympics in Athens 2004 taking him to three match points.

In the end a relieved Ryu Seung Min recovered from two down to squeeze through 6-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-7, 4-11, 11-9, 13-11. Reflecting on the game Ryu Seung Min said "In the third game I realised I must do something but I was already two games to nil down, I felt really nervous, today he was confident and he played really well. It is the first time I had ever played against him. Actually it's the first time I heard about him!" Now the man from Seoul knows his name, it's printed indelibly on his mind.

The previous occasion Drinkhall made it tho the first round was also in China earlier in the year.

On that occasion he lost to Tang Peng of Hong Kong at the first hurdle but again he showed that against high class players he is very much at home and that he has a liking for Koreans.

In Kunshan at the Volkswagen Open China he beat Lee Jin Kwon, the man who went on to win the Under 21 Men's Singles title and who in Brazil, one week later, reached the final of the Men's Singles event.

Quick Summaries

EUROPEAN YOUTH SARAJEVO

Individual Medals:- Junior boys Doubles Silver - Paul Drinkhall/Darius Knight. Junior boys Singles Consolidation Bronze - David Meads. Junior Girls Consolidation Gold - Naomi Owen (WAL)
Final England team positions:- Cadet Girls - Emma Vickers, Rachel Jamison, Melissa Wright finished 18th. Cadet Boys - Gavin Evans, Richard Marshall, Liam Pitchford and Matthew Ware finished 8th. Junior Girls - Kelly Sibley, Sara Wang and Caroline Hallows finished 22nd. Junior Boys - Paul Drinkhall, Darius Knight, David Meads, Danny Reed and Tim Yarnall Finished 5th

VETERANS 6 NATIONS BELFAST EVENT WINNERS

Over 40 Men's Singles: Colum Slevin (IR)
Over 40 Men's Doubles: Carthy & Venner (EN)
Over 40 Women's Singles: Shu Huang(EN)
Over 40 Women's Doubles: Huang & King (EN)
Over 40 Team Event: England
Over 50 Men's Singles: Brian Johns (EN)
Over 50 Men's Doubles: Harding & Fellows (EN)
Over 50 Women's Singles: Sheila King (EN)
Over 50 Women's Doubles: Pearce & Simpson (EN)
Over 50 Team Event: England
Over 60 Men's Singles: Brian Hill (EN)
Over 60 Men's Doubles: Hill & Norton (EN)
Over 60 Women's Singles: Margaret Dignum (EN)
Over 60 Women's Doubles: Dignum & Bax (EN)
Over 60 Team Event: England
Over 70 Men's Singles: Geoff Bax (EN)
Over 70 Men's Doubles: Bax and Brook (EN)
Over 70 Team Event: England
Over 70 Men's Doubles: Bax and Brook (EN)

Full reports available at www.etta.co.uk

UK SCHOOL GAMES GLASGOW TEAM POSITIONS

Boys: 1st: England North Joint 2nd: England East Midlands and England South East 4th: England South West 5th: Scotland 6th England West Midlands 7th: Wales 8th: Northern Ireland
Girls 1st: England West Midlands Joint 2nd: England South East and England South West 4th: Scotland England 5th: East Midlands 6th: England North 7th: Wales 8th: Northern Ireland

Detailed results can be found on the UK School Games website: www.ukschoolgames.com



ITTF World Junior Circuit

Paul Drinkhall, won his first ever Boys' Singles title on the ITTF World Junior Circuit when he beat Austria's Stefan Fegerl in close seven games encounter at the Funchal Junior Open.

Drinkhall won 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, 8-11, 11-9, 4-11, 11-8; it was his second title of the day having won the Boys' Doubles crown with Darius Knight earlier in the evening when once again Fegerl had been the player to suffer. In the Boys' Doubles final, Drinkhall and Knight beat Fegerl and Martin Storf 13-11, 11-5, 11-7.

The Boys' Singles final was the toughest test of the whole tournament for Drinkhall. In the group stage he had progressed without being extended, winning all his three contests in straight games. Meanwhile, in the main draw he was never extended to a decisive game beating Luxembourg's Laurent Kintzele, the Czech Republic's Tomas Tregler and Luxembourg's Gilles Michely en route to the final.

In the final Fegerl pushed the English teenager to the deciding seventh game however Drinkhall always kept the advantage.

He went into a 4-1 lead, the Austrian reduced the arrears to 4-3 before Drinkhall won five points in a row to move ahead 9-3. The winning post in sight, the next two points proved the hardest of all to win. Fegerl, nothing to lose, reduced the deficit to 9-8 but the Drinkhall nerve held steady, he won the next two points and the title.

Duo Make it a Double

In the Boys' Singles final, the final game was the crucial contest, in the Boys' Doubles final it was quite the reverse. "The first game was really important", said Darius Knight. "We were down 4-8 and 8-10 before we came back to win."

It was to prove a turning point in the contest, from that point onwards the English duo grew in self-belief. "We were much more confident", continued Darius Knight. "We didn't play too safe, we were aggressive; we were the more positive pair."

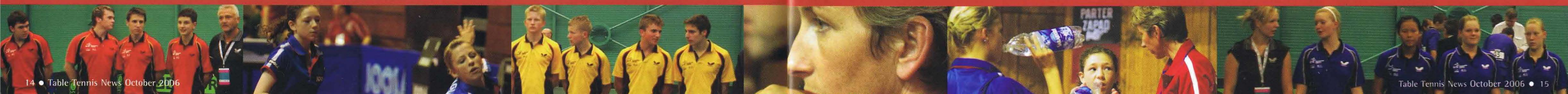
Disappointment in the final for the Austrians but they had excelled to reach that stage of the competition beating the number two seeds, Luxembourg's Laurent Kintzele and Gilles Michely in the semi-finals.

"Certainly they play well together", said Darius Knight. "In the final sometimes Stefan Fegerl served a little long against me and I was able to topspin the service."

The comment reflects the positive attitude of the English pair who had clearly given matters some careful thought. "We tried to return short services with short touch returns and not flicks", continued Darius Knight. "They wanted us to flick the returns so they could topspin the ball; Martin Storf is particularly good at counter topspin play."

A mature approach and one that secured the Boys' Doubles title for England, Paul Drinkhall and Darius Knight were the champions and for the former he completed the two days of the Funchal Junior Open unbeaten in either doubles or singles, a fine performance.

By Richard Pettit - thanks to John Arnold and Ian Marshall for helping compile this information.



JOHN HILTON

by Jeremy Wilson

“With the same action, he could play shots which had completely different spins. He also had the courage to take risks.”

“It was,” says Donald Parker, “one of the greatest upsets in the history of any sport – absolutely unbelievable.”

So legend has it, John Hilton was rated number two in England, three in Lancashire and four at Manchester’s YMCA.

According to Parker, who was an England coach from 1980 until 1997, the odds on Hilton triumphing at the 1980 European Men’s Table Tennis Championships would have been about 1,000/1.

Hilton duly defeated the cream of Europe – and it is no exaggeration to say table tennis was never the same again.

To this day, Hilton maintains the circumstances which surrounded this most unlikely of triumphs were touched by fate. “It was destiny, I’m absolutely convinced of that,” he says.

He is now approaching 60 and remains among England’s top 30 or so players – a position he has kept for more than three decades.

Yet at the age of 23 (ten years prior to his European Championship triumph), Hilton was simply a local league player. That all changed when he made the decision to travel around Australia.

“The plan was to go all around the country,” he says, “but my friend met someone and settled down with her near Perth. I went there and joined a table tennis club where a group of Malaysians played. I walked in and asked them for a game, but they just looked at me. They said they practiced during the week and only played matches at weekends. Meeting them taught me how to train.”

While in Australia, Hilton met another person who would change his career.

“There was a guy called Paul Pinkowich who was the number one in Australia and he had been to Japan and came back with some anti-loop rubber. I began using it and became the first player to attack and not just defend with it.”

It was a time when there was no rule stating that all table tennis bats must have black and red rubbers on either side. The difficulty of playing against combination bats, therefore, was magnified without clearly being able to see which rubber an opponent had used.

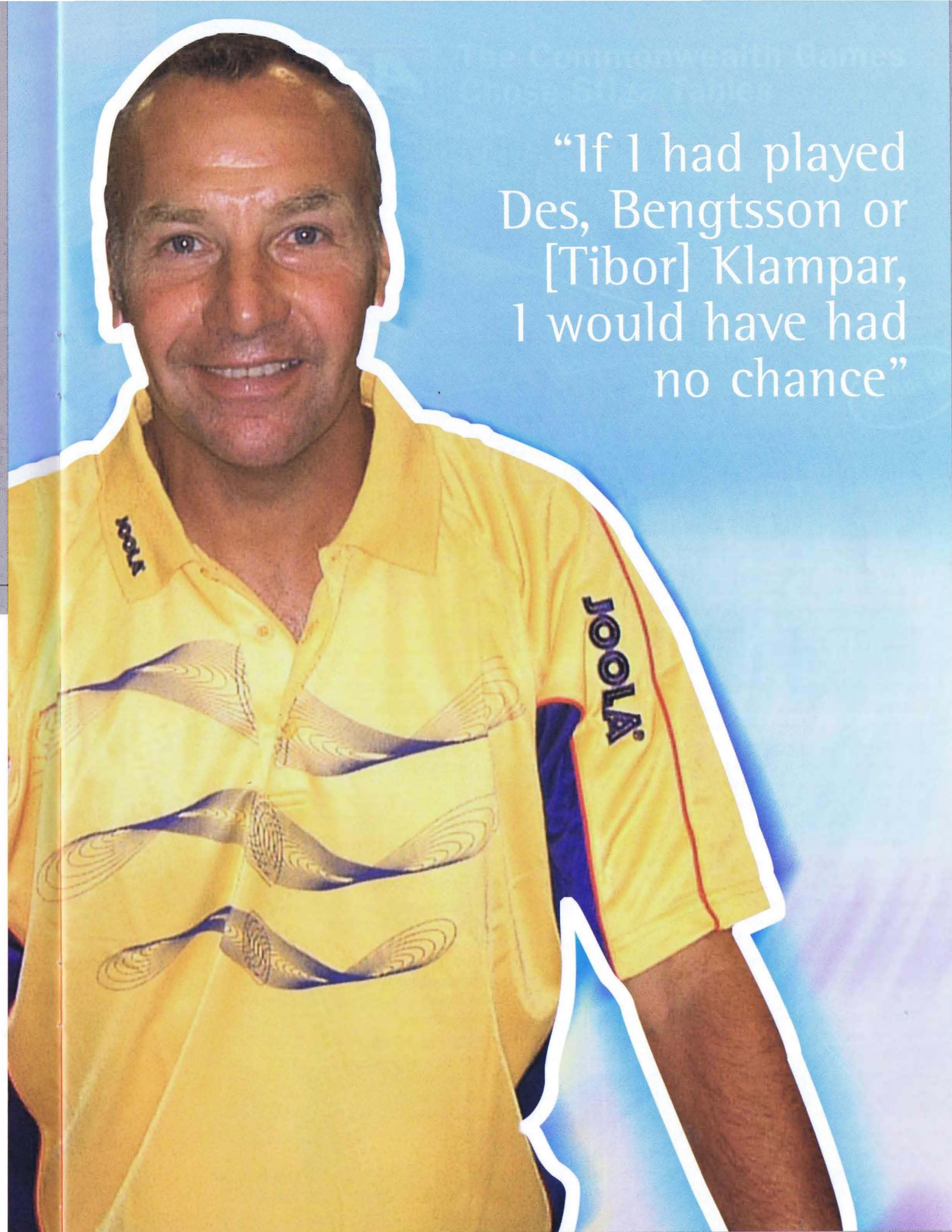
Hilton was not the only player to use anti-loop or long pimples at the time (the Chinese first used long pimples at the 1977 World Championships) but, using black rubber on both sides, he adapted his style quite brilliantly.

“His technique with the anti-spin was superb,” remembers Parker. “He could actually hit a topspin with it, but then he would throw the ball up with no spin at all. He could also play both of these shots with the reverse. With the same action, he could play shots which had completely different spins. He also had the courage to take risks.”

Hilton returned to England from Australia and gradually moved up the national rankings. With Jill Hammersley-Parker winning the European Women’s Singles in 1976 and Desmond Douglas challenging the top players in the world, English table tennis was in good health and the team travelled to Berne in Switzerland for the 1980 European Championships with optimism.

“I was the third or fourth team member and Des was really our best hope in the singles,” remembers Hilton, “but I was in decent form. I was 33 at the time and probably at my peak.”

Hilton performed well to reach the quarter-finals, but his



“If I had played Des, Bengtsson or [Tibor] Klampar, I would have had no chance”

“His technique with the anti-spin was superb,” remembers Parker. “He could actually hit a topspin with it, but then he would throw the ball up with no spin at all.”

Hilton duly demolished Dvoracek 3-0 and he remains the only Englishman to lift a singles title at world or European level since Johnny Leach in 1951.

tournament was expected to come to an end against the top Hungarian player Gabor Gergely. But, with Parker coaching him, he squeezed through in the decisive set 3-2.

In the semi-finals, Hilton faced the French champion Jacques Secretin, who previously had been European champion in 1976. Secretin struggled with Hilton's unorthodox style and the Englishman was through to the final.

In the other half of the draw, Czechoslovakia's Josef Dvoracek had defeated Douglas in the quarter-finals and was then facing the Swede Stellan Bengtsson.

"If I had played Des, Bengtsson or [Tibor] Klampar, I would have had no chance," says Hilton, "but Dvoracek didn't like my style and, I remember when he got through to the final, I thought to myself, 'you must win'. It was strange, even though nothing was expected of me, I wouldn't have been happy to have lost in the final. I knew that if I played properly I would beat him."

Hilton duly demolished Dvoracek 3-0 and he remains the only Englishman to lift a singles title at world or European level since Johnny Leach in 1951. A curious twist was that Hilton befriended a former American table tennis champion by the name of Erwin Klein during the competition.

Klein had travelled to Switzerland to watch the tournament and began encouraging Hilton. "I would go and sit with him and talk," says Hilton, "and he gradually guided me into thinking there was no reason why I couldn't win."

Inexplicably though, after Hilton was crowned champion, Klein wouldn't speak to him, simply saying, "I've done my job for you".

Klein was shot dead in 1992 and, although Hilton has a photo of his brief mentor, he says he never did get the chance to properly thank him for his words of advice.

Parker, though, remembers how well Hilton handled the pressure of reaching the latter stages of such a major competition.

"The way he handled the situation was magnificent," says Parker, "he was not fazed at all against these great players. We used to play winner stays on at Manchester YMCA with two tables. If you lost you went to the back of the queue and I'd seen John get more animated in matches at the YMCA than he was when he won the European Championships.

"It was a fantastic achievement, people mention the bat but you have to give him huge credit. He was an innovator, he experimented with different things and developed a technique that no one else had. He had a good draw for him but he took advantage of it."

Hilton remained a top international player for several more years, appearing with some success in Germany and Holland before retiring from England duty in 1984 to make way for younger players.

By then, as a direct result of Hilton's European triumph, the International Table Tennis Federation had ruled that all players must use different coloured rubbers on either side of their bat.

Hilton agreed with the rule change. "I was saying they should change it for a few years," he says, "but it would have been crazy for me not to try and take advantage of the rules. I would say the same now about glue and this Neubauer rubber - I think they should be banned. But, if it's in the rules and it helps, I would recommend people to use what they can."

Hilton is now virtually a full-time coach, but remains among the best players in the country. He is still physically extremely fit and practices several times a week. He now plays with short and long pimples, predominantly defending and still twiddling to great effect.

He never did become English champion - losing on numerous occasions to Douglas - but his success in Switzerland in 1980 has never been bettered since by an English table tennis player.

Indeed, the name John Hilton will forever sit on an elite list in European men's table tennis alongside the likes of Waldner, Persson, Appelgren, Samsonov, Boll, Secretin, Bengtsson, Surbek, Johansson and Berczik.

He thinks back to his trip to Australia in 1970 and laughs.

"If my friend hadn't met that girl, I would never have stayed near Perth and got into table tennis in the way that I did," he says. "I'd have travelled around Australia and I'd probably have got into drugs and rock 'n' roll. Who knows what would have happened. Maybe I'd be dead by now - either that or a millionaire..."



...his success in 1980 has never been bettered since by an English player...

China versus the world

With less than two years until the Olympic Games in Beijing, minds are turning to the question of whether China will dominate to the exclusion of the rest of the world.

It is an issue with added pertinence following China's one-sided victory over the World All Stars in Kuala Lumpur in mid September.

I would argue, contrary to most experts, that there is good reason to suppose that China will be hard pressed to claim what is arguably the most prestigious title – the men's singles. This is not merely because Europe and South Korea are possessed of formidable players or even because it is far from clear that China has exceptional new talent emerging.

No, the most significant boost to foreign competitors is the fact that the event is taking place in China. This may sound counter intuitive until you consider that China's most dazzling player – Wang Liqin – has one serious weakness: a tendency to freeze under pressure. Surely, there is little that can compare in this respect with competing at the Olympic Games on home soil?

Can Wang handle it? This is far from clear, despite recent performances when the languorous right-hander has seemed rather more at ease in tight situations. Do not forget that Wang squandered a succession of match points in the quarter-finals of the World Championships against Werner

Schlager in Paris in 2003 or that he played like a shadow of his usual self against Wang Hao in the semi-final of Athens in 2004. Such gruesome experiences are difficult to shake off.

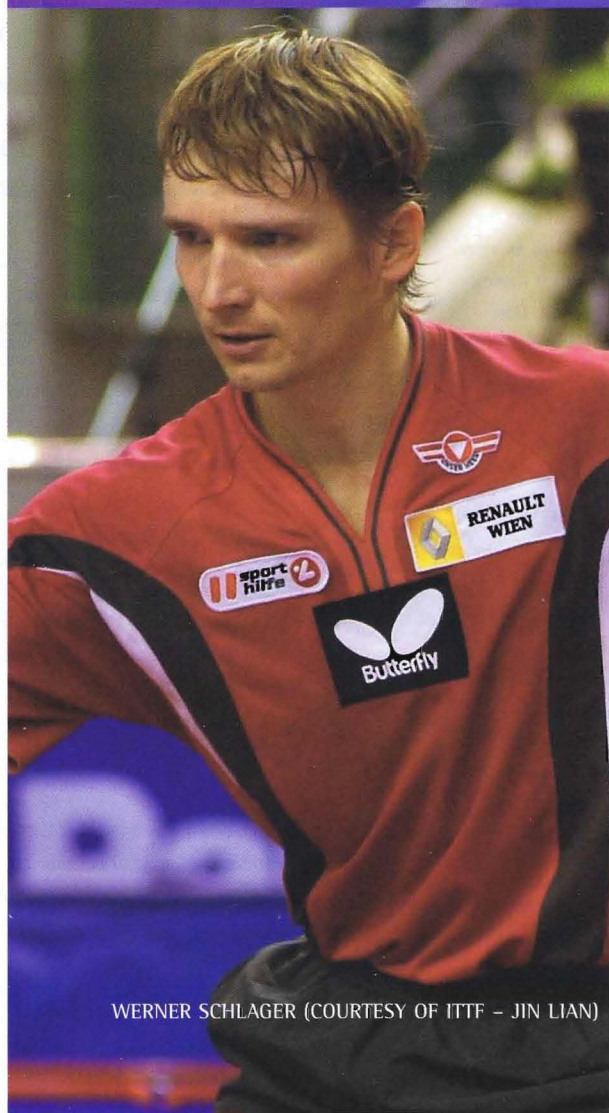
That said, there is little doubt that, freed from inhibition, Wang is the world's best player. His elegant touch-play and deceptive power, combined with lightning reactions and footwork, have won many admirers. His technique is flawless on both wings and when he lets rip he has been seen to outmatch the likes of Kreanga and Ryu Seung Min in long-range topspin exchanges.

Indeed, Wang has a good claim to be regarded as one of the world's best players in the modern era – after all he is one of only five players in that period to have won multiple world singles titles, and he has an Olympic doubles gold to boot. But Wang knows that he will only shake off his reputation for mental frailty if he wins gold in Beijing, a realisation that will only add to the considerable burden of competing at home.

His challengers (other than his team-mates from China) include Timo Boll who, although bitterly disappointed to fall



WANG LIQIN (COURTESY OF ITTF – ERIC LALMAND)



WERNER SCHLAGER (COURTESY OF ITTF – JIN LIAN)

victim to the magical skills of an ageing Waldner in Athens, has a proven record of success in crunch matches – even if he has yet to win one of the two majors.

Ryu, who demonstrated an admirable fearlessness when claiming gold in Athens, is another who is in with a chance (the fact that Paul Drinkhall had three match points against the fearsome penholder at the China Open in September is testimony to the potential of the Middlesbrough youngster). Outsiders include Vladimir Samsonov (although the Belarusian has an incredibly weak record in global events) and Schlager.

One consolation for Wang is that there are few others who can trouble him (even on a bad day) given the relative decline of Europe and the lack of replacements for the dearly departed Swedes such as Waldner and Persson. Another significant factor is that Wang may feel the burden of pressure lift somewhat if he is already in possession of a gold medal from the new team events that will replace the doubles events in Beijing (the team event system is explained in more detail below).

For all the speculation and analysis, one other thing should be noted: the Olympics has always produced upsets. Nobody, for example, tipped Yoo Nam Kyu in 1988. Then there was the extraordinary victory of Ryu in Athens – which came after the most preposterous results of all when Waldner defeated Ma and then Boll.

When table tennis first entered the Games the purists argued that it would never supplant the World Championships in terms of prestige. Nowadays, it is more important than every other event on the calendar combined. That is why Wang is liable to bottle it come 2008.

Rule changes for Beijing 2008

A team will consist of three players. No player will play more than two matches in each fixture. Prior to the start of each fixture the decision as to who will be the home team (A,B,C) or the away team (X,Y,Z) will be drawn by lot. Team captains independently present the names of the players to the umpire; the team captains may choose freely in which position each player competes.

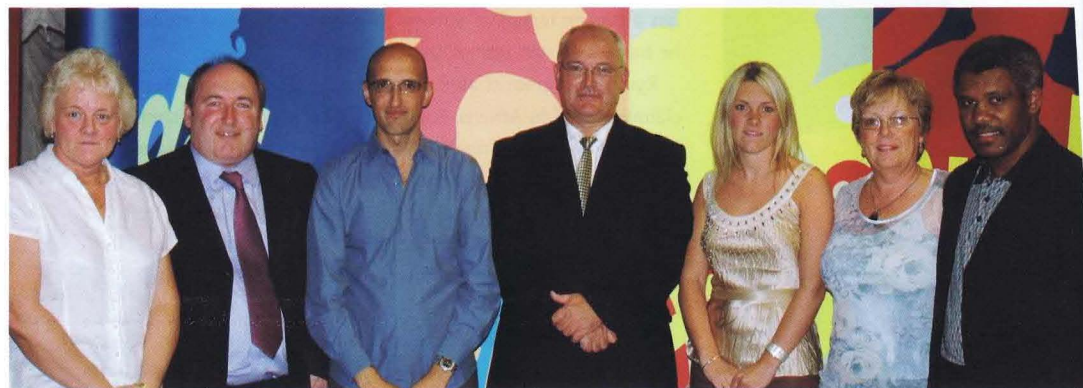
Each fixture starts with two singles matches: A v X, B v Y. There is a five minute break after the opening two singles matches during which time the team captains decide the doubles pairings; this automatically determines the names of the players who will compete in the final two singles contests.

The doubles is the third match. C and Z must play but the team captains may choose their partner (A or B with C, X or Y with Z). A five minute break follows the conclusion of the doubles matches.

The fourth match involves the member of the home team who did not play in the doubles against the member of the away team who only played in the doubles (A or B v Z).

The fifth and final match is between the member of the home team who only played in the doubles against the member of the away team who did not play in the doubles (C v X or Y). A fixture concludes when one team has won three matches. Each match is best of five games.

Teams - There will be a total of sixteen teams in the men's event and sixteen teams in the women's event. In each event, teams will compete initially in groups of four on a 'round robin' basis. The teams finishing in first and second places in each group progress to the quarter-finals where play will proceed on the knock-out principle; the losers of the semi-finals will compete in a play-off match for the bronze medal.



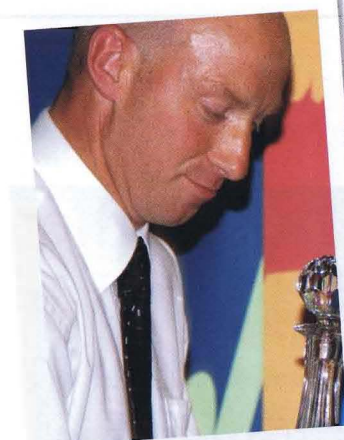
Jon Kaufman
Equality Award



John Vincent
Press Officer of the Year



Catherine Hayes
Young Volunteer of the Year



Paul Whiting
Male Coach of the year



Katy Parker
Female Coach of the Year



Phil Vickers
Table Tennis Development Officer of the Year



Valerie Clack
Contribution to Coaching

Tremendous!

The ETTA Volunteer Conference and Awards dinner was a resounding success with nearly 200 people in attendance including some of sport's most influential.

A resounding success

After the opening speech from the ETTA Chairman, Alex Murdoch, Liz Nicholl OBE and Director of Performance for UK Sport, took to the stage and delivered an excellent speech concerning player pathways which clearly lived up to the Chairman's directive "inspire". Next followed a witty insight into the media world by our very own Matthew Syed, as you may or may not know the former England no.1 and Commonwealth Gold medal winner is now heavily involved in the media world: in addition to applying his trade within this publication he has gained significant recognition as a top sports commentator and journalist for The Times, BBC and Eurosport. With topical updates from ETTA staff members swiftly following lunch, each delegate was soon brimming with knowledge, from Branding to Butterfly Skills and everything in between. Topping the afternoon's bill was Sport England Interim Chief Executive Stephen Baddeley who provided an insight into developing our sport and an update to the latest developments within his organisation. With the grey matter well truly exercised it was now time to get bat on ball, first up was a quick demonstration. Three generations of England's finest commenced battle in the classic winner stays on format. It was clear who was the crowd's favourite, yes, Desmond Douglas locked horns with Matthew Syed and quite possibly the world's best 13 year old Gavin Evans in an exquisite display of talent, craftsmanship and trickery.

Tremendous, Tremendous, Tremendous

For those of you in attendance these three words will ring a bell as the after dinner speaker Don Parker delivered a sequence of hilarious tales about England's past ventures, he reminisced of a bygone era which had the audience in raptures of laughter. Tremendous is also certainly the right word to illustrate the achievements of one particular table gracing the dinner, with an array of European and national titles to their names: Carole Moore, Paul Day, Matthew Syed, Don Parker, Katy Parker, Jill (Hammersley) Parker and Desmond Douglas (pictured top) received a glowing introduction from the master of ceremonies ETTA Chief Executive Richard Yule, and a fantastic reception from all present. Finally tremendous is a truly befitting word for those who achieved Awards:-

Contribution to Coaching – Valerie Clack

"I have played for Ferndale TTC for over 15 years and in that time Val has been a superb coach, always listening and helping coaching. Val is also the Regional Coach and the time that she actually puts into table tennis is nobodys business. She is always there, never late, gives lifts to training sessions and competitions, in all, she has devoted her life to table tennis." Paul Johnson

Equality Award – Jon Kaufman (DHS London Progress TTC)

"Few people really know Jon Kaufman even though many know of him; behind the scenes he works tirelessly encouraging all kinds of people

(kids, non disabled and disabled players and even parents) into the sport. Jon welcomes everyone and remarkably he seems to know everyone by name." Anthony Small

Table Tennis Development Officer of the Year – Phil Vickers (Draycott and Long Eaton TTC)

"The vision and foresight of this man over a seven year period has transformed an almost derelict building into a top quality eight court table tennis centre which has already been given the go ahead to hold three national county weekends." John Bayliss

PremierClub Volunteer of the Year Jan Chapman (Cippenham TTC)

"On many occasions visitors to Cippenham will find Jan in the servery doing a 16 hour weekend stint preparing and serving food and drink. She is always more than willing to help out and is often cooking, umpiring, coaching and running events - all at the same time!" Cippenham TTC

Young Volunteer of the Year – Catherine Hayes (Cippenham TTC)

"Not only is Catherine a top class player she is a top class volunteer. Bearing in mind that Catherine is only just 16 and spends most of her time at school she also manages to put in many hours as a volunteer. She is a real star in this respect and has now competed two seasons as the Club's Event Officer and has just signed up for another one!" Cippenham TTC

Press Officer of the Year – John Vincent (Plymouth, Devon)

"Like a lot of table tennis volunteers John has worn many hats over the years and he has been a prolific writer of table tennis since 1990 for the local newspapers and Table Tennis News.

To quote Evening Herald Sports Editor Sara Raine 'John contributes table tennis stories on a weekly basis and his enthusiasm and passion for table tennis never fails to amaze the Herald's sports desk team.'" Keith Ponting

Volunteer Co-ordinator of the Year – Bryan Wearden (St Helens Junior TTC)

"Bryan is a true friend to all of the club, he doesn't force anyone into these volunteer roles; people step forward willingly and seem to love working for him and the club, and we all want to be a part of his dream!" Kevin Dolder

Male Coach of the Year – Paul Whiting (Plymouth, Devon)

"A relative newcomer to formal coaching, Paul has made a massive contribution towards the development of DML Woolwell TTC into one of the country's leading clubs that has 17 Plymouth League teams." John Smith

Female Coach of the Year – Ruth Pursglove (Helmsley, North Yorkshire)

"Ruth has shown outstanding dedication to the coaching in Helmsley. A Level 3 coach, Ruth is ever present and her skill and enthusiasm bring a great response from the pupils." JT Gasgoine

Young Coach of the Year – Katy Parker (Preston, Lancashire)

"Katy has developed a mature and responsible approach to the role whilst retaining an excellent rapport with the youngsters. Her experience as a former international player provides the players with invaluable opportunities to learn from

someone who has been there. Her youth has been a great asset to these youngsters as they are able to relate to Katy in a way that is much more difficult for older coaches." Jenny Heaton

Community Coach of the Year – Eric Jenkins (Bexleyheath, Kent)

"Eric has done tremendous work in helping to build up table tennis locally for young and old alike. A supporter of the ETTA PremierClub programme, the National Junior and Cadet League competitions and the London Junior Table Tennis scheme, he works in and around local schools as well as at several local clubs, two of which he organises and runs himself." DJ Tarrant

Don Parker delivered a sequence of hilarious tales about England's past ventures, he reminisced of a bygone era which had the audience in raptures of laughter.

Also within the presentations a number of PremierClubs were rewarded for achieving clubmark status 'the sign of a quality club'. These were:- Baddow Village TTC, Bournemouth Sports TTC, Crawley Community TTC, Draycott & Long Eaton TTC, Fastbats TTC, Ilfracombe TTC, Kemnal TTC, Kingfisher Reading TTC, Knighton Park TTC, Limsfield TTC, Ormesby TTC, Pudsey TTC, Rotherham Scorpions TTC, Rougham TTC, St Neots TTC, Townsend Community Association TTC.

Day two continued with an upbeat atmosphere providing ample time for delegates to interact and gain information about a vast array of issues. With a structure networking session, market stalls as well as further updates and a seminar on individual registration/affiliation, there was plenty to fit in.

Just prior to the Chairman's closing speech the final keynote address was conducted by Lord Colin Moynihan, Chairman of the British Olympic Association, and in true style he laid out the vision for London 2012 to finish what had been an excellent conference. More detailed citations and information on the presentations is available at www.etta.co.uk

“Opinions differ as to whether Marty Reisman was **America’s greatest ping-pong player ever**, but he was certainly its boldest adventurer...”

The big question for those of us jaded with the modern game of ping-pong - the oof-plock, oof-plock of devious sponge, no rally lasting longer than the cramped spin serve, the dabled return, and the silent kill - was whether the great Marty Reisman, just one grey hair short of seventy but still refusing the rest owing to old age, was far enough advanced on his comeback trail to lift another US Open Hardbat title.

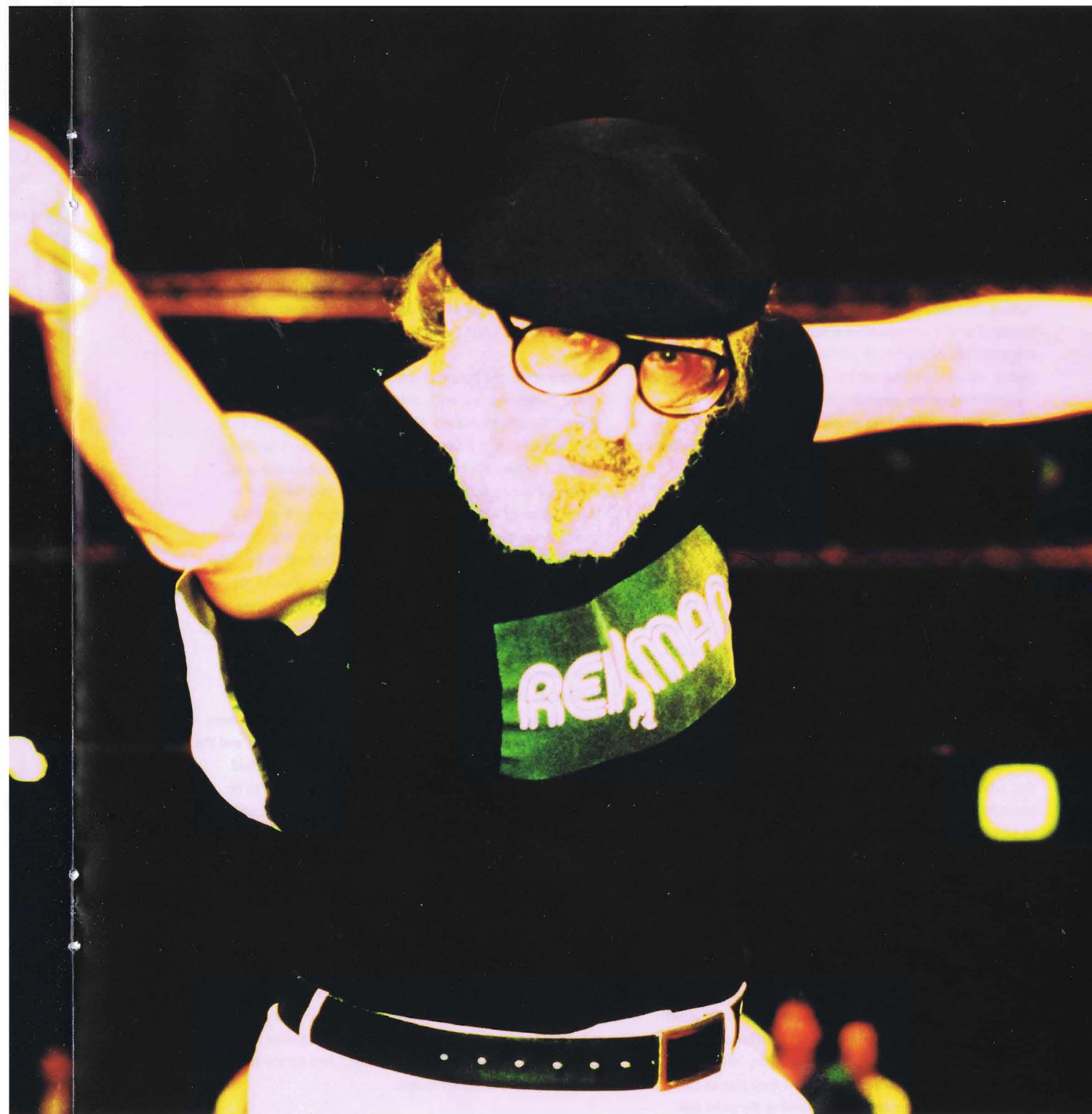
Hardbat? The antiquated three or five ply wooden paddle covered with rubber pimples. Elegant and audible. Kerplock-plock.

The smart money was saying no. ‘The guy’s driving me nuts ringing me up every hour of the day telling me how well he’s playing,’ Tim Boggan confided to me on the first morning of the Open in Fort Lauderdale, ‘but he’s living in a fool’s paradise. Sure, he’s practising, but against the same opponent. Steve Berger. Always Steve Berger. He isn’t tournament-hardened. My heart says yes. But he’s got no chance.’ You listen to Tim Boggan. Himself one of the game’s old hardbat lions, he is American ping-pong’s most impassioned historian, a one-time English professor at Long Island whose specialism was Romantic and Victorian Poetry, but whose true love was always table tennis; a grizzled, exasperated man with an icy beard, dreaming thwarted dreams, another mariner chasing the gleaming margins of the untraveller world. So you listen to what Tim Boggan’s heart says, as-well. But then whose heart doesn’t say yes to Marty? He is the fatal Odysseus you have to follow beyond the sunset. Succeed or fail, just one more voyage. Opinions differ as to whether Marty Reisman was America’s greatest ping-pong player ever, but he was certainly its boldest adventurer, lifting the prestigious British Open title when he was only 19, enlivening a doleful post-World War European ping-pong community with lower East Side effrontery, an extrovert belligerent with one of the loveliest and most lethal forehands you could hope to see, a natural who seemed to be inventing the game anew every time he played it. And now here he is, over half a century since he first became United States National Junior Champion, wanting another shot at another title. Of course the heart says yes.

Attend to Reisman himself and it’s in the bag. I too have been

in receipt of some of those phone calls which have been driving Tim Boggan nuts. ‘Howard, I just gotta tell you my table tennis has been super great stuff recently,’ he told me when I rang him from London a week before the Open. ‘I’ve gone to a new plateau. I’ve tapped in to a vast reservoir of talent. I’ve zero’d in. New-strokes are evolving. I’m better than I’ve ever been. I feel my life is just getting started.’ The ravings of a geriatric lunatic? Well, the description is his. You can’t tell Marty Reisman anything about himself he doesn’t know already. But when he shows up at the Convention Centre, indifferent to the oof-plocking in progress everywhere in the antiseptic hall, an ostrich in a bookie’s cap, he is still the braggart. ‘My game is elevated to such a level,’ he says before we’ve even shaken hands. ‘I’ve completely discouraged Steve. I slaughtered him last week. I have him in my back pocket now.’ Tim Boggan’s words of earlier in the day din in my head. ‘Steve Berger. Always Steve Berger.’ Is Marty basing his estimation of his form entirely on the thrashing he gives his only sparring partner, a lively player but not the toughest opposition in the world? That’s if he is thrashing him at all - because that too has to be weighed in the balance: the Reisman hyperbole. Either way, are reality and Marty on any sort of speaking terms at present?

There is an air of other-worldly confidence about him. ‘I’ll tell you, Howard, I’m playing strokes I didn’t know I had.’ He is talking about digging into the mother lode of his experience and rejoicing that what he seeks abides there yet. This overblown serenity may partly be because the singles event isn’t until tomorrow. For the moment he has only the doubles to think about. And he isn’t thinking too hard about that. His doubles partner, of course, is Steve Berger. When a message arrives saying that Steve has missed his plane and will not be able to compete, the landscape of Reisman’s countenance undergoes an extraordinary transformation. He looks beatified suddenly, as though chosen to be the site of God’s refulgence. Is the On-High whispering promises to him? Is Steve’s not coming a sign? ‘I’m not gonna let that wipe me out,’ he says. ‘I got bigger fish to fry.’ I express surprise that he isn’t even minimally disappointed. A game of doubles is a handy workout, after all.



You can’t tell Marty Reisman anything about himself he doesn’t know already. But when he shows up at the Convention Centre, indifferent to the oof-plocking in progress everywhere in the antiseptic hall, an ostrich in a bookie’s cap, he is still the braggart.

A nice loosener. But there is no dimming his radiance. 'I hate sharing the glory,' he laughs. Except that it isn't a joke. Isn't only a joke.

So what is it, then? He wasn't joking when I first met him at the Ninth World Veterans Table Tennis Championships in Manchester twelve months ago. He wore a wild beard then and looked unaccustomed, unsure whether he'd come to the right place and what sort of reputation preceded him, like a leftover Beat Poet about to read to a bunch of contemporary kindergarten kids in a non-English speaking country. He was carrying a shoulder-bag containing press-cuttings going back fifty years. Everything you needed to know about Reisman, dated and filed, in multiple copies, there on his person. A walking data base of the self. Before I'd known him ten minutes I was in possession of a hundred sheets of photocopied magazine and newsprint, all celebrating - more or less - his genius. He needn't have tried so hard; there was already great excitement about his presence. Those who travel the world playing veterans ping-pong have long memories, and they all remembered Marty Reisman with the sort of sweet remembrance people reserve for the summers of their early youth. He belonged to the Golden Age of table tennis, when players resembled philosophers of linguistics and prided themselves on the elegance, variety and of course the sagacity of their strokes.

Not everyone recognized him immediately. You're not looking at other people much when you're battling arthritis and want nothing else on earth but to take a ping-pong trophy home to Vilnius to show your grandchildren's grandchildren. But when he began to play, competitors around him stopped to watch, first one table, then another, until finally all one hundred tables were quiet, and even the most sponge-committed of the veterans - oldsters with sprung sponge mattresses in their hands, who could stamp-serve and twist themselves around the ball in the requisite Quasimodo manner of the young - had to admit that table tennis played by a master of the old game was a beautiful sight to behold. And more than that, brought back to us why players and non-players alike had once been excited by it, and no longer were.

For table tennis, in the West, is in crisis. No one watches. Television doesn't want it because the ball travels too quickly, because points are over too soon, and because there are no charismatic personalities in the game. Although it embarrasses people to put it this way, table tennis has also become too Asianized for Western taste. First it was the Japanese, now it is the Chinese who are invincible. They are wonderfully athletic players whose speed around the table is breathtaking. But they play as though there is no room to play. They have reduced the confines of the game to a nutshell. And they play as though the world is about to end: not just winning the point but

winning it immediately. So gone from the Asianized ping-pong of today are the slow, probing, witty cat-and-mouse encounters between the great lugubrious European players of the thirties and forties, lovers of labyrinthine prose and existential narrative, readers of the secrets of another's souls - what Marty calls the 'dialogue' of ping-pong, the classical drama which has a beginning, a middle, and a resolution. Once upon a time they turned up in their thousands to watch attrition table tennis, in which a single point could last an hour. In excess of five thousand smoking spectators saw Reisman beat Barna through a tobacco mist in the 1949 British Open staged at Wembley. At this year's equivalent tournament held in Hopton-on-Sea (Hopton-on-Sea! - not even the English know where that is) just about the only spectator was me. And it's me again, solus, at Fort Lauderdale. And I'm only here to write a lament for the game.

In one sense, the lightning-quick and deadly-silent ping-pong of the modern sponge era is only fulfilling an impulse buried deep in the game's nature. Ping-pong is for the diffident. It seeks solitude. It is a touchy, thin-skinned person's pastime. Gossima, it was once called - something insubstantial as a moth's wing. A good name for a condom you don't notice you're wearing. Otherwise Whiff Waff - blow on it and it's gone. It was already suffering a crisis of self-confidence when I started playing it seriously in the north of England in the early fifties, a tissue-paper boy drawn to the introspection of the game and the easily-bruised natures of its devotees. There was something never fully assured at every level of ping-pong, from the agonies of individual players, embarrassed equally by their own incompetence and the smallness of the arena in which it showed, to the defeatism of administrators, who squabbled ineffectively over rules and equipment and finally allowed every last spectator to drift away, bored by the absence of plot and the lack of adventurism. Anyone in advertising could have told ping-pong it had an image problem. It was perceived to be inglorious. Hence the importance of Marty Reisman, hustler and jester, who more than any other player made a public gift of his genius, refusing to distinguish between the table and the stage. Why, in that famous 1949 final at Wembley, he not only returned Barna's first serve behind his back but retrieved balls as though he were Nijinsky, with a leap and a pirouette. For a ping-pong masochist like me, playing in a shadowland of shame, belittled by the very sport I loved, and playing it precisely in order to be belittled, Marty Reisman offered a salvation of the sort many Englishmen before me have found in Americans. The salvation of magniloquence. Marty aggrandized what he did. He made a hero not a coward of himself. And for me turned ping-pong from doggerel to epic.

To be continued...

AYONIJA SUNDARARAJAN
by Brian Halliday

Unexpected reward

When Ayonija Sundararajan transferred from York Gardens to the Kingfishers, Halliday had his reservations, but a decision to coach her with frictionless pimples led them to achieve extraordinary results - starting the 2006/07 season as Cadet number 3.

There was a period when I was responsible for the policy decisions relating to Table Tennis News. Long years in the financial service industry hid a frustrated journalist, and the chance to develop in this field was too good an opportunity to miss.

I had watched the sport at the highest level and here was a ready made opportunity of actually interviewing some of the stars and trying to find out exactly what made them tick. I was able to talk to Jean-Michel Saive, Chung Li, Marty Reisman, Alan Cooke, Ni Xia Lian, Liang Ge Liang, and the incomparable Jorgen Persson, who became a good friend (a bit of name dropping there!), and many others.



I was always searching for new subjects to write up and I think it was Matt Syed who first suggested that I might care to write an article about the York Gardens Club - they had achieved recognition through giving a young Darius Knight a start in our sport. I interviewed their coach Tom Draper, wrote up the article, and thought that was the

completion of an interesting assignment. How wrong I was. This visit was to lead me into a new and very rewarding direction.

Some time after my visit to Wandsworth I received a call from Tom to say that a young girl that played at York Gardens was moving to the Reading area, and would I have a look at her with the prospect of her joining the Kingfisher club. Contact was made with her parents and she duly arrived. To be brutally frank initial reaction was not all that favourable. Here was a young lady who had a very strong kill shot, a fierce determination, but little else to suggest that she was anything out of the ordinary.

Many years prior to my meeting Ayonija Sundararajan I had introduced Dr Herbert Neubauer to English table tennis and in the meantime Herbert's energies had been focussed on developing special types of pimples. We had talked for hours on the subject of frictionless pimples, and after a deal of thought I decided to try and teach Ayonija to play with this new material. I was involved in helping out on the coaching side at the club but soon recognised that many hours of individual tuition would be necessary if mastery of this particular form of long pimples was to be achieved.

There is a school of thought, especially among the coaching fraternity, that the use of funny rubbers at an early age inhibit the progress of a young player and may have a detrimental effect on future development. I am not an "official" coach. At present I have no wish to be one, so perhaps I can say what

I like!. It has not been an easy journey for Ayonija to achieve such extraordinary results. She has had to overcome players who have been coached by some of the very best players around. She has suffered comments from both parents and coaches, who really should have known better, that it was her bat and not her expertise, which was the reason for her success.

Her transition from reverse rubber to the Neubauer pimples did have an immediate effect, although not quite as dramatic as it turned out. We entered her for the Cotswold 4 Star at the end of season 2004-05, more as an experiment than anything else. It was her first tournament, and nothing too much was expected. I received a phone call that evening from her very excited parents to say that Ayonija had actually won.

This past season has seen three successive triumphs in under 13 4 Star tournaments, as well as two near misses at the semi-final

stage. She won a National Schools title, was unbeaten in County Championships at under 18 level, and shepherded Reading to victory in the Bromfield Trophy, where she won all her seven matches at the finals. She won a Gold medal when she represented the England Youth Development Squad in Cardiff, being unbeaten in the team event. Ayonija set the seal on a near perfect season when she won the National Under 13 Singles Championship at Crystal Palace.

Last season saw a rapid rise to the number 1 ranking on the England Under 13 list. She starts season 2006-07 at Cadet number 3.

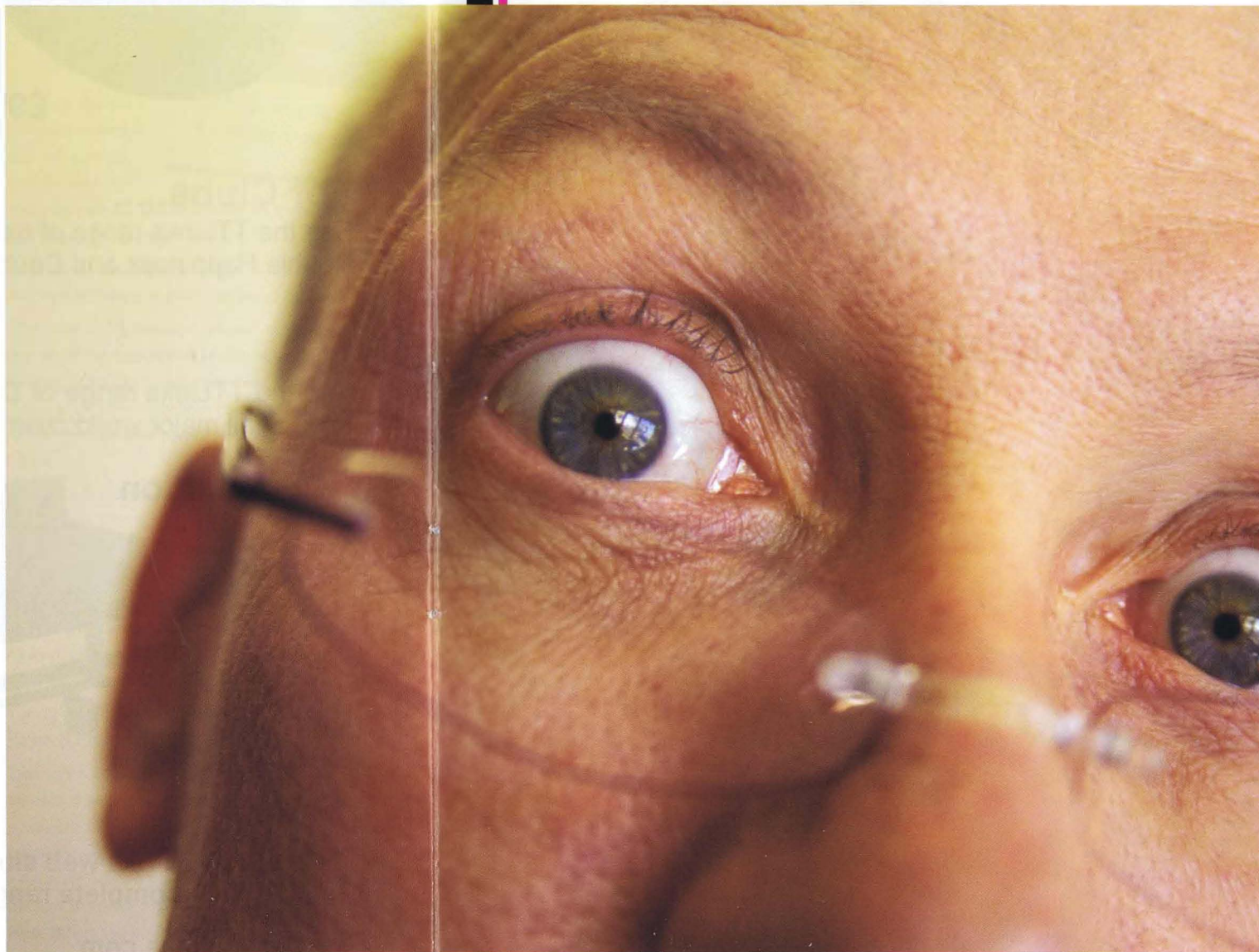
Perhaps it is my loss that I have no coaching qualifications. My very good friend Jim Stokes also had no qualifications or badges, and in fact did not aspire to them in any way, but if you were to ask Gareth Herbert, Terry Young, Gemma Schwartz, and his own son Jimmy Stokes who was mainly responsible for their eventual international

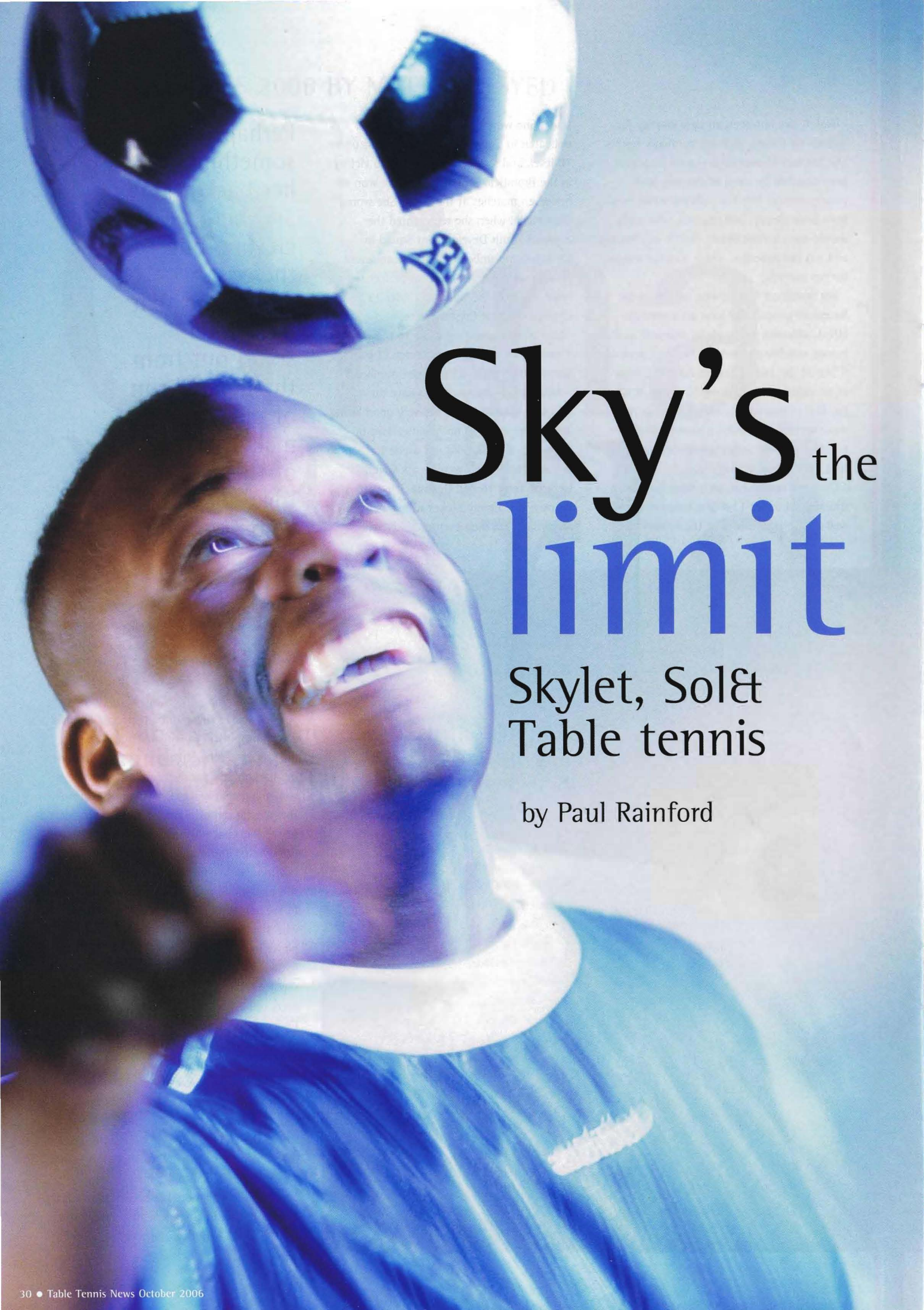
Perhaps it is something in her background and her culture, but there is something that makes her stand out from the general run of players. I make no secret of the fact that I like players who do the unexpected...

success they would tell you that Jim was their main mentor. I have taken on board a lot of Jim's teachings and, along with the expertise of Herbert Neubauer, I have tried to develop the very special talent that I believe Ayonija has.

What makes this girl a bit special? She has a very strong will to win and that is so difficult to teach. Perhaps it is something in her background and her culture, but there is something that makes her stand out from the general run of players. I make no secret of the fact that I like players who do the unexpected and make the crowd sit up and take notice. Maybe we have too many of the run of the mill over coached attackers. I want to see something extraordinary from players with flair. We have too few of this type of player in England. I am not saying that Ayonija is the answer to all our problems, but she does sparkle at times and must be given every opportunity for further development. England needs players that combine a special bite to challenge the best in Europe and the world.

In a little over a year at Kingfisher we have taken this 12 year old just about as far as we can. It is now up to the England set up within the ETTA to provide the means, and that also means financial, to allow this young lady to reach the absolute limit of her potential. Don't ignore her because she has a different style. Encouragement is essential, after all 2012 is not too far away.



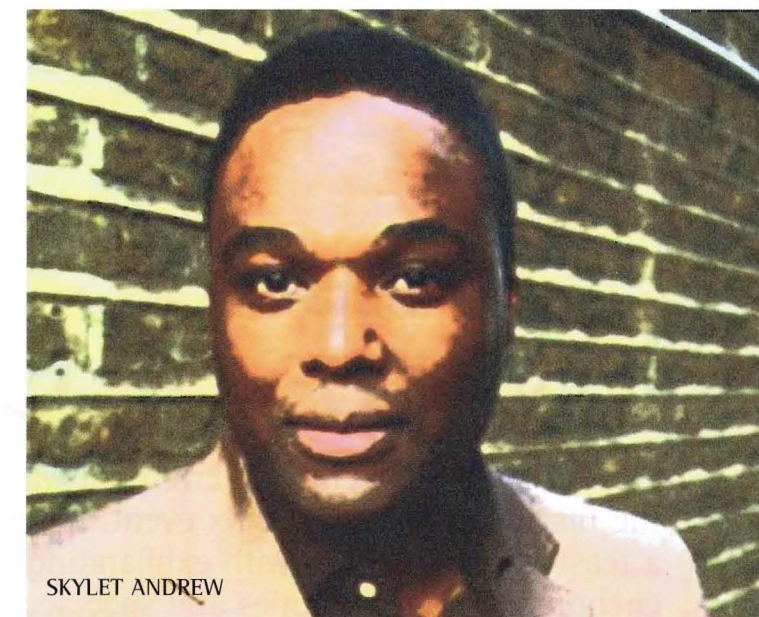


Sky's the limit

Skylet, Sol & Table tennis

by Paul Rainford

These days football is big business - with big money to go with it. The back pages and sports radio phone-ins are forever full of the latest transfer rumours and speculation about the top players' wages. And whenever the controversy gets especially heated you can bet that it won't be long before the reporters are seeking the thoughts of a man whose name is familiar to many readers of TTN...



SKYLET ANDREW

Skylet is best known as the agent of former Arsenal star Sol Campbell, but he also represents the interests of a string of other high-profile footballers and TV presenters. His promotions empire also encompasses film production, with more than a dozen releases to his name. In 2003 Skylet won Entrepreneur of the Year in the Black Enterprise Awards. He lives in leafy Cuffley in Hertfordshire. In football parlance, the boy from east London done good.

Rewind about 20 years, though, and the boy was doing pretty good on the table tennis table too. A talented left-hander with a devilish repertoire of serves which this writer for one dismally failed to cope with, Skylet was discovered playing at his school by local coach Len Hoffman, then rose through the ranks to reach England's top five. Ultimately, Skylet won three Commonwealth gold medals and represented his country at the Olympics.

Skylet finally bowed out of the sport competitively in 1995, after playing in Germany for a season. He went on to run some training camps and Saturday coaching clinics, but now gets his exercise from the occasional game of full-size tennis.

It was Skylet's skill at table tennis allied to his turbocharged gift of the gab that led to his long and profitable relationship with Sol Campbell: the two met at Lilleshall, the national training centre, when Skylet was no doubt working on his high-toss serve and Sol was honing his defensive skills as one of England's brightest football prospects. "Initially we were just

mates - he would even come along to the odd table tennis tournament to watch me play," says Skylet. "For the first three years or so I just helped him out." Since then, Skylet and Sol have been through hell and high water together - not least last season when Sol did something of a disappearing act from Arsenal, which again thrust him and Skylet into the headlines.

Skylet looks back fondly on his table tennis years, and still keeps in touch with many current and former players, Darren Blake, Terry Young (who he used to coach), Nicky Mason (who sorts out most of his corporate printing requirements) and Des Douglas among them. One of Skylet's greatest TT memories is partnering Des at the European Championships and winning five out of seven doubles matches played - not bad for what is usually the disastrous combination of two left-handers! For Skylet, Des is nothing short of a legend. So, does Skylet the sports agent think that Des the legend could have made more of his career in terms of earnings and endorsements?

"Des is happy in what he does," says Skylet. "He's different to me in that he prefers the quiet life, while I like to take risks and put myself in difficult situations every day." He holds up Des as a model of modesty and dignity to those of his clients who perhaps need the odd lesson in the ego management department.

From his perspective as a personal promotions guru, Skylet recognises that table tennis suffers from a profile problem, but says that are no easy solutions. "We're living in a PR society. We need to somehow bring people to the sport. For example, if there was a top female table tennis player who was going out with a top footballer, then we should be able to capitalise on that." Skylet has had meetings with people running the game in England but nothing concrete has come out of those meetings to date.

As for the future, Skylet doesn't rule anything out. "I'm not one to stand still," he says. And anyone who remembers Skylet holding court in his table tennis days, his husky east London banter going nineteen to the dozen while his eyes darted around the room to check that nothing was going on that he didn't know about, will know that he is telling the truth.

Butterfly Liverpool Open

Wavertree Tennis Centre in Liverpool was the home of the first Butterfly Grand Prix event. We were treated to a feast of table tennis, with exhilarating games, close encounters, shock victories and spectacular rallies.

If this first event is a taste of things to come, then the series will make extremely interesting reading for the remainder of the season.

Commencing with the shock victories, a local league player, Gary Watson (Cheshire) recorded one of his most significant victories of his table tennis career thus far by notching up a win over England international Darius Knight, ranked an amazing 250 places above him.

Speaking with Gary after his victory, I asked him what factors helped influence this career breaking win, which effectively made him second seed for the men's singles event. 'The ability to play confidently against these great players can make all the difference' Gary replied. 'I played my own game and stayed tight, and although I was wary of his serves, I knew the only way I was going to get into the game was to attack them. Then the points started coming and I knew I was in with a great chance.' The formula was simple for Watson, he attacked quickly, moved well, was positive and duly prevailed.

Gavin Rungay of Bonnie Scotland proved to be back in form after beating both the two top seeds Darius Knight and Paul Drinkhall en route to the final. The crowd were treated to a fascinating semi-final match between Gavin and Paul, and it proved to be a game of cat and mouse all the way to a final set decider. Rungay, hampered for the past couple of months with a back injury, showed tremendous sportsmanship and composure by overcoming Drinkhall in the final set 11-8. With all the attention on Rungay and Drinkhall, I nearly missed ex-England international Dale Barham make his way to the final in cruise control after relegating Alexander Echavarria 11-7, 7-11, 12-10, 11-8 in the semi.

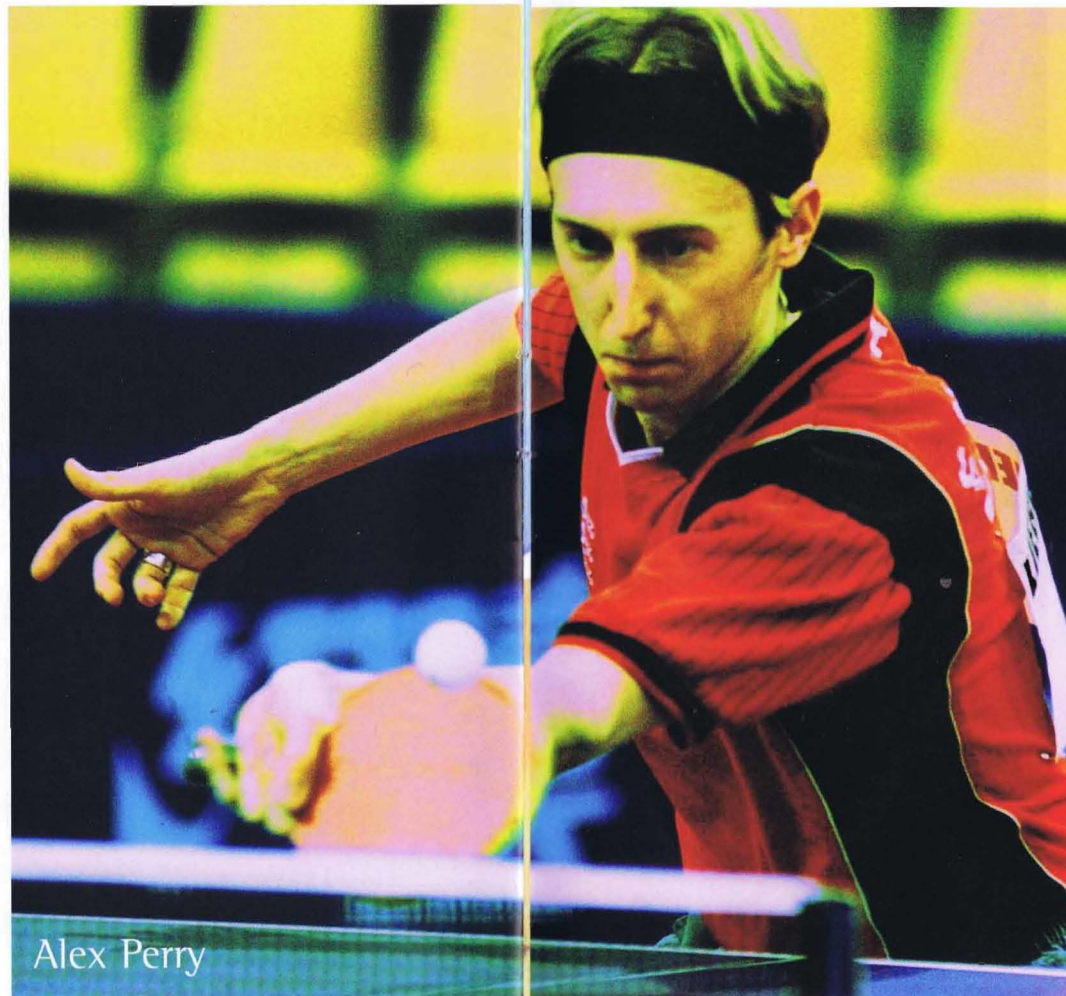
Men's Final - Barham won the opening game 14-12 and this set the pattern for the thrilling final clash. Rungay though, wasn't going to let this opportunity pass and with a clever combination of speed and change of pace, looked comfortable despite his niggling injury. He then took the next three games 11-5, 11-9, 11-7 to deservedly take the title and the £300 cheque for the first time. The ladies singles, although not containing any of the top seven ranked players, nevertheless turned into a highly competitive event.

We were treated to some great table tennis as we witnessed players turn games around and notch up tournament winning victories. Naomi Owen of Wales truly justified her top seeding by overcoming the overall women's Butterfly Grand Prix champion of 2005/06 Lindsey Thornton-Reynolds with an 11-3 victory in the fifth, despite being 2-1 down.

Naomi then eased her way to the final with confident successes over veteran Judy Morley and Naomi Wilson.

In the semi-final, Egle Adomelyte was victorious over Renata Fulop of Hungary, who on the Saturday won both the women's band 1 and 2 singles, so this obviously was no easy victory, despite the significant difference in the ratings.

The final of the women's singles was between top seed Naomi Owen and third seed Egle Adomelyte. The match was exiting and exhilarating with Owen doing Wales proud by beating Adomelyte 11-3, 9-11, 11-8, 11-8.



Alex Perry

Liverpool Open Results

MEN'S SINGLES - Gavin Rungay bt. Dale Barham 12-14, 11-5, 11-9, 11-7 **WOMEN'S SINGLES** - Naomi Owen bt. Egle Adomelyte 11-3, 9-11, 11-8, 11-8
MEN'S BAND 1 SINGLES - Dhaivat Pandya bt. Kevin Dolder 11-9, 8-11, 5-11, 11-9, 11-9 **WOMEN'S BAND 1 SINGLES** - Renata Fulop bt. Naomi Wilson 11-9, 11-3, 8-11, 11-4 **MEN'S BAND 2 SINGLES** - Darren Howarth bt. Mathew Ware 7-11, 8-11, 11-6, 11-5, 11-1 **WOMEN'S BAND 2 SINGLES** - Renata Fulop bt. Corrina Whitaker 11-3, 11-4, 12-14, 9-11, 11-6
MEN'S BAND 3 SINGLES - Anthony Wright bt. Yasir Mauthoor 6-11, 11-7, 12-14, 11-6, 11-8 **WOMEN'S BAND 3 SINGLES** - Reena Ardesana bt. Catherine Symons 11-8, 11-5, 8-11, 11-4 **MEN'S BAND 4 SINGLES** - Tomasz Rzeszotko bt. Wahab Adam 11-7, 11-13, 11-8, 5-11, 11-8 **MEN'S BAND 5 SINGLES** - Kim Daybell bt. Tomasz Rzeszotko 13-11, 11-13, 12-10, 11-8 **MEN'S BAND 6 SINGLES** - Ivan Lewis bt. Phillip Bell 11-8, 8-11, 11-9, 11-8 **U 21 MEN'S SINGLES** - Mathew Ware bt. Kenny Lindsay 14-12, 11-9, 11-6 **U 21 WOMEN'S SINGLES** - Naomi Owen bt. Emma Vickers 11-9, 11-4, 12-14, 12-10 **MEN'S RESTRICTED SINGLES** - Vidal Graham bt. Daniel Welsh 11-9, 12-10, 13-11 **VETERAN MEN'S SINGLES** - Dave Godbold bt. Ivan Lewis 14-12, 14-12, 11-9 **VETERAN WOMEN'S SINGLES** - Brenda Buoy 1st, Judy Morley 2nd (Round Robin) **Tees Sport player of the weekend** - Mathew Ware

Newcastle Open Results

MEN'S SINGLES - Alex Perry bt. Dale Barham 11-5, 11-6, 11-8 **WOMEN'S SINGLES** - Marcia Ma bt. Lindsey Thornton-Reynolds 11-9, 11-3, 11-4
MEN'S BAND 1 - Abdul Wuraola bt. Eddie Smith 11-6, 6-11, 13-11, 13-15, 11-7 **WOMEN'S BAND 1** - Stephanie Donnelly bt. Gemma Lloyd 11-2, 11-3, 13-11 **MEN'S BAND 2** - Gerry Campbell bt. Alim Hirji 11-6, 12-14, 7-11, 11-9, 11-9 **WOMEN'S BAND 2** - Karina Le Fevre bt. Alkistis Olympiou 11-8, 6-11, 11-9, 11-7 **MEN'S BAND 3** - Craig Hardie bt. Tony Vaughan 11-5, 11-9, 8-11, 12-10 **WOMEN'S BAND 3** - Karina Le Fevre bt. Angela Brettell 11-3, 11-2, 9-11, 11-2 **MEN'S BAND 4** - Tony Vaughan bt. Wahab Adam 9-11, 13-11, 10-12, 11-9, 14-12 **MEN'S BAND 5** - Gavin Maguire bt. Danny Lowe 11-6, 11-6, 5-11, 5-11, 12-10 **MEN'S BAND 6** - Danny Lowe bt. Ferenc Szeles 11-9, 11-6, 11-8 **VETERAN MEN'S** - David Godbold bt. Abdul Wuraola 11-4, 11-13, 11-5, 11-7 **MEN'S RESTRICTED SINGLES** 1st Andrew Wilkinson 2nd Daniel Welsh (Round Robin) **U21 MEN'S SINGLES** - Bradley Evans bt. Shaun Marples 11-6, 11-8, 11-1 **U21 WOMEN'S SINGLES** - Caroline Hallows bt. Kerry Mansell 13-15, 11-6, 8-11, 11-8, 11-2 **TEES SPORT PLAYER OF THE WEEKEND** - Tony Vaughan

Butterfly Newcastle Open

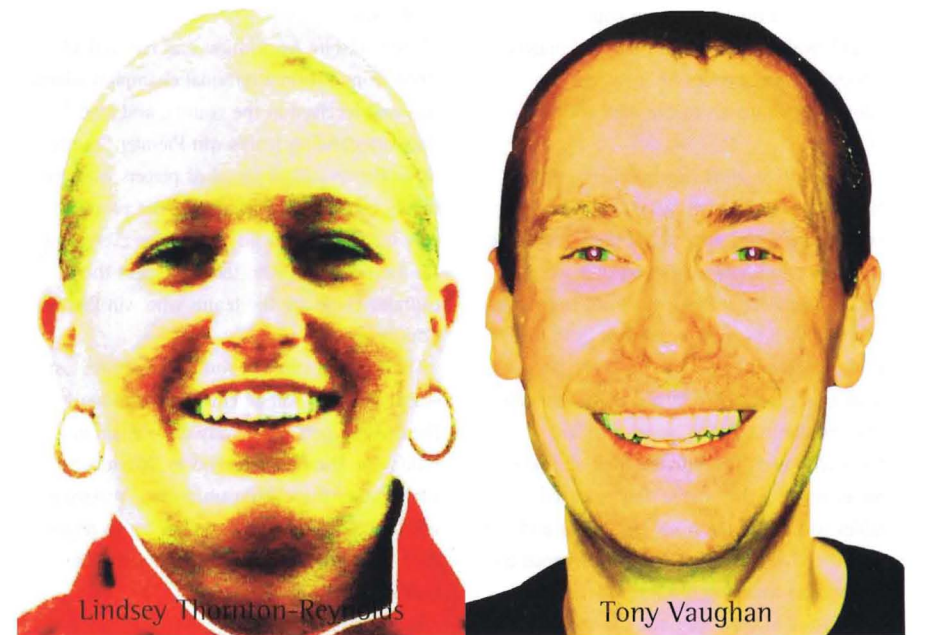
The Eldon Square Leisure Centre, Newcastle, hosted the second Butterfly Grand Prix of the 2006/07 season.

Bradley Evans displayed a fine performance in the U21 men's singles final by disposing Shaun Marples 11-6, 11-8, 11-1. It was evident that Perry was a class above his opponents from the very start of the event, before he even picked up his bat. He shown all the competitors at Eldon Sqaure, regardless of level or ability, that entering a table tennis tournament is not simply about having a ten minute knock prior to your morning group, but much more.

Alex carried out the simple tasks that all sports people should do prior to playing. A thorough warm up as well as researching his opponents allowed Alex to keep himself focused and ready. Perry was a clear role model. His professionalism was quite simply outstanding. The earlier matches in the men's singles may not have challenged Alex, but the way in which he used these games as a platform of preparation to set himself up for the latter stages was fascinating to watch. Once again, Dale Barham proved that he is no past commodity, by once again cruising to the final, just as he did in Liverpool. If he carries on the season playing as he is, he will surely be there or thereabouts in the Butterfly Grand Prix overall men's winner category. The final was over in three straight games. Alex was simply too good for Barham, who pulled out all the stops to try and overcome him. Huge forehand loops and drives were easily returned by the England no.2 and Perry's focus and consistency simply overpowered a tired Barham. Sheer professionalism triumphed on the day and Perry remains unbeaten in any of the Butterfly Grand Prix events he has entered in the past two seasons. Perry beat Barham 11-5, 11-6, 11-8. The women's singles event also turned out to be a fascinating affair, with 24 competitors battling it out to become champion.

Lindsay Thornton-Reynolds was the top seed for the women's singles. Lindsay only dropped one game en route to the final, to Kerry Mansell. However, the other finalist Marcia Ma did not have the easiest of tasks getting to the final. Easily advancing from her group, Marcia's most difficult match was against the young and talented Caroline Hallows of Cheshire. Caroline almost upset proceedings before falling to Marcia in a five set thriller 11-8 in the final game. However, Caroline reconciled her defeat with victory. A fine performance in the U21 women's singles lead her to the final, were she was crowned champion after another 5 setter, this time overpowering Kerry Mansell 11-2 in the fifth.

So the expectation was on Lindsay to justify her top seeding in the final. However, this was not to be. Simply outplayed by the vastly experienced veteran Marcia, Lindsay fell 11-9, 11-3, 11-4. However, like Dale Barham, Lindsay has now reached two consecutive finals in the first two Butterfly Grand Prix events of the season, and again, if she maintains her consistency, has a great chance of being involved at the business end of things towards the end of the season.



Lindsey Thornton-Reynolds

Tony Vaughan

one year short of diamond anniversary

But one cannot leave last season without a mention about one of the more remarkable achievements as Yorkshire veterans 1st took the Premier Division after two thrilling weekends at Halifax and Ashford.

Yorkshire were unfancied as they had only recently been promoted from Division 1A the season before and it was their first season back in the big time. They did not even win Division 1A as they had finished runners-up to Cheshire 2nd, but regulations barring two teams from the same county being in a premier division, it was Yorkshire who were promoted.

The Yorkshire squad of Mick Stead, Tim Dyson, Steve Cooper and skipper Linda Simpson were boosted by the inclusion of former Scottish international Keith Rodger for one match during the first weekend as narrow victories over Cheshire, Dorset and Kent saw them share the lead with fancied Devonshire.

Harrogate player Richard Whiteley replaced Rodger for the second weekend in Ashford and things could not have got off to a worse start as not only did the White Rose county lose to their old rivals Lancashire in their first match, but they lost the services of "new vet" Whiteley in this match to the A&E with a broken foot.

A 7-3 victory against Northumberland in Saturday's second match helped to calm Yorkshire down and once again they shared the lead at the end of the day's play, but with Essex, as surprisingly Devon had not been able to win a match as they had drawn both their Saturday matches.

What was expected to be the crunch match of the division proved to be an excellent contest with each team giving their all and it came down to a fifth game deuce, mixed doubles win in the tenth set by Cooper and Simpson before Yorkshire claimed a famous 6-4 victory and touching distance of their goal.

Essex stood in their way but the Yorkshire

team were not going to be outdone and despite a few scares on the way moved into a victorious 6-3 lead before conceding the final mixed doubles as the euphoria and flowing champagne made the final set impossible to play.

Yorkshire recognised the achievement of their top veterans team as all squad members received a specially designed polo shirt at the county's annual dinner. The shirt was the county colour of royal blue with a white rose embroidered on the right sleeve and the player's name and achievement also embroidered on the breast of the shirt.

Simpson was also given a special award by the county honours committee for not only her playing achievements but her captaincy and leadership of the squad over the two weekends.

The Yorkshire Association had received an email from a former national champion which was well received in the county, and read "Only outstanding teams win Premier County titles. Teams with a squad of players who are totally committed to the team, are proud to play for the team, who would give everything for the team and who totally respect their captain. These are the teams who win Premier County titles."

These words sum up Yorkshire's efforts last season but this will all count for nothing as the division gets under way once again at Halifax on the first weekend in November when rather than being unfancied, Yorkshire will be the team to beat as they try to retain their title. It might just be worth a visit to Halifax.

By Barry Snowden



Dave Harding

Halifax Veterans Open

Surrey county player and England international, Dave Harding, became the fourth different winner of the Halifax Veterans Open when claiming the men's event with an exciting five game final victory over reigning champion, Northumberland's David Godbold.

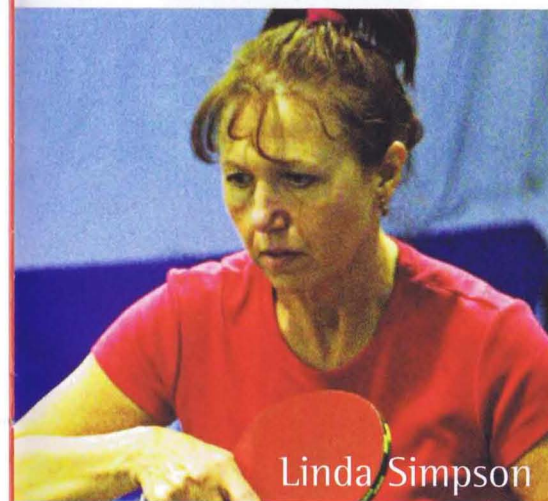
The main draw consisted of the first two home in the group stages on the Saturday, with top seeds John Hilton and Dave Godbold being given the luxury of a first round bye. The only major casualty at this stage was Durham's fifth seed Tony Gelder, who failed to handle South Yorkshire's surprise package, Farrell Anthony. Veteran newcomer Anthony had impressed many onlookers during the earlier group stages the previous day and alongside Yorkshire representative Nigel Pennock, were the only non-seeds to make it through to the quarter-finals.

The first quarter-final saw Harding inflict a shock defeat against top seed John Hilton. Hilton looked ring rusty on his first competitive appearance in over a year through injury, and failed to fend off the attacking flair of his old rival, eventually succumbing in straight games. Lancashire county player Steve Turner put an end to Anthony's impressive run with a hard fought straight games victory before defending



Salter meant business from the word go and had little difficulty force blocking Godbold's powerful looping game. A five game thriller ensued and despite Salter's best efforts, he was finally put to the sword. He was joined in the final by Harding, whose consistent attack proved too much of a handful for the steady style of the higher ranked Turner.

A power packed final was anticipated given the all out attacking styles of the two finalists. Stamina and tactics looked sure to play a big part in the outcome following two days of continuous play. A fast start was crucial and Harding did not disappoint his supporters when blowing away his north eastern rival to take the first game comfortably. Godbold



Linda Simpson

champ Godbold ended the home county's hopes with a four game success over Pennock. Seventh seed Geoff Salter has strung together some impressive results over the last year and blocked brilliantly to deny former champion and third seed Keith Williams.

Defending champion Godbold was not relishing the prospect of playing against his county team mate in the first semi-final. The pair knew each other's game like the back of their hands and the defending champion was prepared for a torrid time, and so it proved.

showed all his battling qualities when responding to edge the second on deuce but a more cautious approach in the third proved costly and the North eastern man quickly found himself on the verge of defeat. Taking advantage of a rare bout of errors from Harding, Godbold appeared to have turned the game on its head when running away with the fourth and established a 2-0 lead in the decider, however, the gritty Harding dug deep into his reserves to pull the game out of the fire and never allowed his opponent a serious look in after levelling at 4-4. Thus, Dave Harding became the fourth new winner of this annual event and his victory was due reward for his outstanding fitness and consistency throughout a long weekend.

The ladies singles consisted of nine entrants and was played in a round robin format. Harrogate's Linda Simpson successfully retained her title from Durham's Shirley Gelder, with Yorkshire pairing Sandra Rider and Linda Sanderson taking third and fourth place respectively.

The men's doubles final was a real see-saw affair, with the outcome in doubt right up to the end. Tony Gelder and Keith Williams finally shrugged aside reigning champions Harding and Tim Dyson in a five game thriller 11-9 9-11 8-11 11-8 11-7.

The men's Band 'B' event was won by a player well known in Halifax circles, Bradford's Paul McCreith. Paul, a regular visitor to the Halifax TTC was gaining his first tournament success at the expense of Yorkshire representative Mick Wilcockson. The men's Band C event was won by Lincolnshire's Brian Allison whose stout defence finally got the better of Bradford's David Miller.

Thanks go to Referee and County Umpire John Hardcastle who once again made sure the two days ran as smooth as silk.

By Paul Stansfield

Veteran Open Results

MEN'S SINGLES CLASS 'A' Quarter-Finals: Harding bt Hilton 11-6 11-7 11-6 Turner bt Anthony 11-9 12-10 11-8 Salter bt Williams 2-11 11-7 11-9 11-5 Godbold bt Pennock 11-4 11-8 8-11 11-7 **Semi-Finals:** Harding bt Turner 13-11 11-9 11-7 Godbold bt Salter 11-2 11-5 6-11 9-11 11-8 **Final:** Dave Harding bt David Godbold 11-7 12-14 11-6 4-11 11-5
MEN'S DOUBLES Final: Gelder & Williams bt Dyson & Harding 11-9 9-11 8-11 11-8 11-7
MEN'S SINGLES CLASS 'B' Paul McCreith bt Mick Wilcockson 9-11 14-12 12-10 11-6
MEN'S SINGLES CLASS 'C' Brian Allison bt David Miller 11-5 10-12 11-7 14-16 11-5
LADIES SINGLES 1st Linda Simpson **2nd** Shirley Gelder **3rd** Sandra Rider **4th** Linda Sanderson
LADIES DOUBLES 1st Rider & Gelder **2nd** Sanderson & Pursglove
MIXED DOUBLES Gelder & Williams bt Gelder & Sanderson 13-11 11-9 11-8

Generation two lead

A new venue (the BATTs Norman Booth Centre in Old Harlow), a newly constituted division and plenty of new players, but, at the end of the day it was the most experienced side - Generation 2 - who are the early leaders of Division II South.

Generation 2 made short work of Horsham II in their opening match. Wesley Bush-Harris coasted through his two singles 3-0 in the number one position and Miki Sinanin, Graham Toole and Roger Hookey all played their part as they cruised home 8-0. OLOP Impact II proved tougher opponents, with veteran top-spinner Steve Davis scoring two fine wins. No shortage of excitement here as Steve beat Miki Sinanin 7-11, 11-7, 11-13, 14-12, 11-9 and Wesley Bush-Harris 18-16, 5-11, 11-7, 14-12. It wasn't quite enough as Graham Toole beat Graham Outrim (3-2) and Tim Heaps (3-1) and Bush-Harris, Sinanin and Hookey all won once to give Generation a 5-3 victory.

On Sunday Generation replaced Bush-Harris with Ashley Willetts but the team produced an equally impressive performance in beating BATTs Team Peniel II 6-2. BATTs lost three games at 11-9 in the fifth end or closer and Willetts played his part in two cracking matches. Willetts fought his way back from the dead to beat Abigail Embling 6-11, 5-11, 11-7, 15-13, 11-9 and in a real cliff-hanger he just missed out 9-11, 13-11, 10-12, 12-10, 9-11 to former junior international Peter Cleminson. However, even these two superb games were overshadowed by the all-action five-ender featuring the ever-improving Daniel Rees and "never-say-die" Roger Hookey. After taking a two game mauling Roger fought his way back to win 4-11, 7-11, 11-9, 12-10, 11-9.

After such an impressive start it wasn't a surprise that Generation made it four wins when they beat Club Cornwall 5-3. They again had to dig deep, winning three of the four games that went to a fifth end. Ashley Willetts may well have created a record of sorts as his two games were again decided by the closest possible margin in the decider. This time he beat Jeremy Williams 11-6, 11-5, 10-12, 7-11, 11-9 but lost 6-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-3, 13-15 to Adrian Noot. Four games played and all decided by the closest possible margin in the fifth end. In the last game of the match outstanding cadet prospect Matthew Trevorrow (arguably the discovery of the weekend with five wins out of eight), almost earned his side a point but he just missed out 5-11, 4-11, 11-8, 11-9, 12-14 to Roger Hookey.

A new look DHS London Progress IV's 5-3 victory over Club Cornwall in their opening game showed they were not going to be overawed, and although they lost 5-3 to Mossford they hit back on the Sunday with a 5-3 victory over Horsham II and a 7-1 win over OLOP Impact II. Garth Kinlocke, Ryan Collins and Jake Collins were all undefeated against OLOP. Daniel Ives showed huge improvement by beating Horsham's Mayur Majithia 12-10

After such an impressive start it wasn't a surprise that Generation made it four wins when they beat Club Cornwall 5-3.



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in the decider and he also showed up well against Club Cornwall, defeating Matthew Trevorrow and Jeremy Williams.

Horsham II made a desperate start to the weekend when they crashed 8-0 to Generation 2 but by the end of the weekend they were "flying". In arguably the weekend's biggest upset they beat Mossford 6-2. Mayur Majithia started the ball rolling with a 3-1 victory over Euan Liddle and Marc Burman played his part with an excellent 3-2 victory over Matthew Spero whilst Steve Barby added a 3-1 win over Keith Lesser. It just wouldn't run for Mossford and Stephane Bonnafous scraped home 11-8 in the fifth end against Liddle whilst Burman clinched the game with a 11-9 fifth set victory over Lesser.

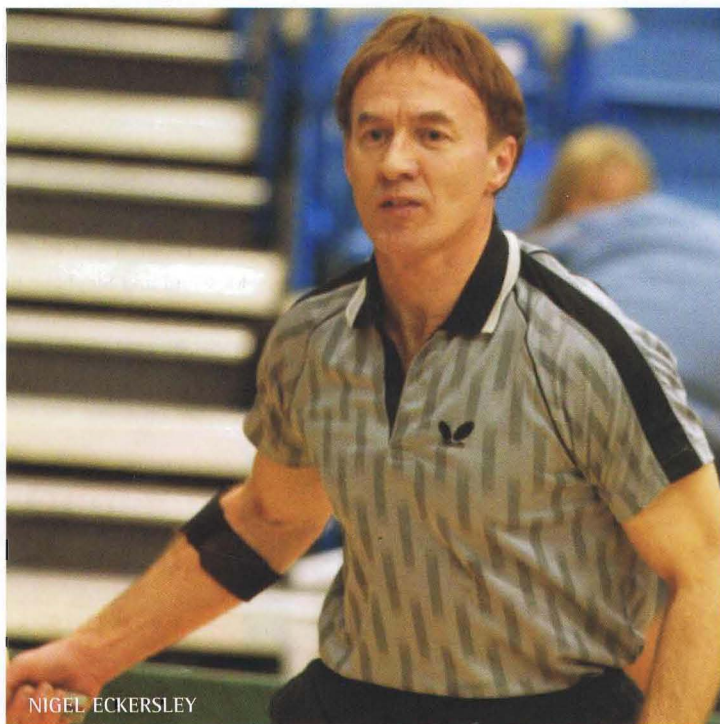
In arguably the weekend's biggest upset they beat Mossford 6-2.

With eight points, the experienced Generation 2 team will have enjoyed their long trip back to Hampshire but having played the four lower placed sides they won't be getting too excited just yet. The young DHS London Progress IV will be equally pleased with their return of six points and bottom-placed BATTs will be relieved to have got off the mark in their last game with Fusion II. Peter Cleminson lost his 100% record to a battling Martin Smith, who came through to win 11-9, 11-9, 9-11, 11-13, 11-9, a superb effort. Counter-hitter Smith had not fared so well against Abigail Embling going down 7-11, 11-5, 9-11, 6-11. Fusion's Adrian Davis scored a vital 3-2 victory over Daniel Rees but none of these fine performances were sufficient to take the Player of the Match Award. That deservedly went to Billy Deville, who twice came back from 2-0 down to secure priceless victories. Billy beat Opeyami Fakoreda 10-12, 7-11, 11-7, 11-5, 11-8 and secured his side their point with a 9-11, 7-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6 victory over Adrian Davis.

By Steve Kerns

ROUNDUP

COUNTY



NIGEL ECKERSLEY



MATTHEW JAMES PERRY

Berkshire by Colin Dyke

Reading held their ever popular Senior and Junior Masters events at the tail end of last season in which the most successful players in the league contest the Masters titles.

Hari Gehlot won the Senior title for the first time but not before a shock defeat in the group by 14 year old Tom Maynard over 5 games. This left Hari with a lot to do in order to qualify but he scraped through in the final group match against Bob Davis in five to qualify as runner-up. Tom was the unfortunate non-qualifier after a three way tie between the three players with Bob winning the group on count back.

The second group was also a three way tie between Ramesh Gehlot, Peter Martin and Richard Andrews. The count back confirmed their positions in that order.

In the semi finals Peter Martin recovered from 2-1 down to beat Bob Davis whilst Hari Gehlot beat brother Ramesh in straight games. As hard as surprise finalist Martin tried he was unable to prevent Gehlot taking the title.

The junior event saw easy passages for Kudeep Gehlot and Abhay Gehlot with Kuldeep edging to the title in a scintillating final in three straight games.

The new County Rankings at the commencement of the season are as follows:

Men

1) M Adams, 2) D Barr, 3) H Gehlot, 4) J Smith, 5) M Banks, 6) R Gehlot, 7) T Maynard, 8) A Gehlot, 9) R Andrews, 10) S Murgatroyd

Ladies

1) M Farquhar, 2) L Crick, 3) S Johnson, 4) A Sundararajan, 5) M Allan, 6) E Human, 7) R Farquhar, 8) J Lovell, 9) L Calcutt, 10) S Mitchell

Junior Boys

1) T Maynard, 2) A Gehlot, 3) R Andrews, 4) B Davis, 5) K Gehlot, 6) R Saxby, 7) G Beckett, 8) D Fudge, 9) R McGowan, 10) J Fleming

Junior Girls

1) M Farquhar, 2) A Sundararajan, 3) R Farquhar, 4) F Taylor, 5) C Schioler, 6) E Ashley, 7) B Wallace, 8) G Davis, 9) E Reed, 10) R Lee

Veteran Men

1) D Barr, 2) H Gehlot, 3) D Reeves, 4) M Childs, 5) D Hilbeck, 6) D Streak, 7) T Heaps, 8) D Wood, 9) R Davis, 10) R Gehlot

Veteran Ladies

1) G Knightley, 2) S Mitchell, 3) D Rolfe, 4) D Weller, 5) P Spooner, 6) C Byers, 7) W Porter, 8) S Bruton, 9) M Massey, 10) J Chapman

Unfortunately despite the County's abundance of junior talent Berkshire will have no Junior

County team this season due to the absence of an organiser. This is a big disappointment to the Kingfisher Club who produce virtually every one of the top boys and girls.

Cheshire by Alan Blears

Worldwide readers of this column, desperate for their monthly fix of Cheshire Notes, must have felt sorely deprived when my report for the June edition failed to appear. As on one previous occasion it vanished into the black hole of a postbox, never to be seen again. It is probably at this moment being read worldwide, with some puzzlement, on the third planet out from Polaris. Rest assured, I always send in a report.

The main casualties of this vanishing act were the Cheshire schools' results, and the Stockport junior competition, in which Matthew Weatherby took all three singles titles: cadet, junior and U 21.

It is always good to hear of youngsters wanting to put something back into the game, and a number of U 21s, including 16 year-olds Rick Hague and Amy Walker, wished to take a level 2 coaching course. It was thus very disappointing when this was cancelled for lack of support, presumably from older players. Better luck next time.

Stockport's Caroline Hallows received an

The loss of Paul Drinkhall to SAG Cestas of Bordeaux has weakened the Ormesby team for the coming season

invitation to the European Youth Championships in Sarajevo when Melanie Farquhar was unavailable. In her own words here is her report:-

* I felt quite confident going into the event having played reasonably well at the Polish and Slovak Opens a month earlier. I had a good 10 days' practice at Lilleshall before we flew out. Last year the Junior Girls finished in the top 16, so we had a very tough group draw. My first 3 matches were against the number 1 players of Poland, Hungary and Slovakia who were all highly ranked in Europe. I found they were very consistent in keeping the ball on the table and would open up with strong first ball as soon as possible. Especially in the first match, my serves were not tight enough and I tended to serve many half long, which allowed them to get in with a strong ball straight away.

We lost all 3 of our group matches and went in to the middle part of the draw where we beat Holland and Estonia to finish 22nd overall. I managed wins in both matches and seemed to play better as the tournament went on.

I had a tough draw in the individuals but with my partner, Sarra Wang, we beat a good team from Ukraine and then gave the eventual German winners a close match.

I learnt that you have to start quickly. The first group match is very important. Serves have to be kept tight and short, I needed to keep the ball in play more, especially the return of serve. You can't push when you get a chance as they will just attack you straight away, and the best players hardly ever missed.

I think I improved as it went on and didn't feel totally outplayed by anyone. I need to work hard to improve my technique and have been given some pointers by our coach in Sarajevo, Alan Cooke. Our team supported each other really well on the bench in all the matches. It was a great experience.

The Wirral received good publicity when the Open Golf Championship was held on the sun-scorched links of Hoylake, proving that it doesn't always rain in the N.W. (except in August).

Unfortunately it has had less publicity recently in these reports as the information has dried up. Ditto Mid-Cheshire and Halton - does the south of the county exist? Come on, folks, pick up that phone or drop me a line - please.

Cleveland by Alan Ransome

The loss of Paul Drinkhall to SAG Cestas of Bordeaux has weakened the Ormesby team for the Premier Division of the British League for the coming season. Paul has signed for Cestas who play in the Pro A League which is France's top division and in the European Cup. With Paul in the Cestas team are Finn Tugwell of Denmark, Song Liu, the Argentinian Chinese and Eric Varin of France.

Ormesby have replaced Drinkhall with the highly successful veteran, Nigel Eckersley, who played at number 1 for the Horsham Club last season. Nigel was a member of the Ormesby team for more than a decade and was part of the squad that won the British League in 1991. Whilst Nigel cannot be expected to win the same number of games as Paul Drinkhall, his inclusion boosts Ormesby's chances of at least maintaining their position in the Premier Division at the end of the season.

This season, for the first time in the history of the League, 3 teams are likely to be relegated from the 8 in the Premier due to the increase in the number of first divisions from 2 to 3.

With Nigel in the team will be Craig Bryant and Danny Reed with the fourth position coming from Damien Nicholls, Martyn Clarke, Danny Welsh, Andrew Wilson and Steven Bailey who has taken on the role of coach/player for the coming season, taking over from Carole Moore who retired from the position in the summer. The second and third teams and the women's team have been strengthened by the Donnelly family returning to the Ormesby Club after a spell at Darlington, with Simon in contention for a place in both teams and Stephanie in the women's team.

Ormesby's second team playing in Division 1 North includes Nicholls, Clarke, Welsh, plus Mark Simon and Simon Donnelly, whilst the third team will be selected from Donnelly, Tim Surrey, Anthony Wright, Jonathan Durham and player/coach Matthew Stanforth for the Division 2 North team.

Northfield continue their participation in the British League in Division 2 North with a squad consisting of Keith Rodger, Steve Cooper, Chris Johns, John Bousfield, Tony Langley, Nick Corking, Philip Robinson and Jane Durham.

Newcomers to the British League are the Brierton Club from Hartlepool who have entered a strong team in Division 4, consisting of Darren

McVitie, Bill Reay, Michael Young, Karl Shaw, Michael Boyce and Keith Thomas.

The Ormesby team for the Women's British League has been strengthened by Stephanie Donnelly joining the club and the team is likely to be selected from Karen Shepherd, Stephanie Donnelly, Rachel Greener and Karina Lefevre. In the Junior British League, Ormesby have 2 boys' teams with the Premier team consisting of Danny Reed, Damien Nicholls, Anthony Wright and Jonathan Durham. The second team is named as Durham, Andrew Dawson, Robert Besford, Martin Rutter and Marc Besford.

The Ormesby junior girls team are in the first Division with a squad of Rachel Greener, Karina Lefevre, Jenny Lowther, Chloe Whyte, Katherine Lefevre and Jessica Dawson.

Derbyshire by Neil Houghton

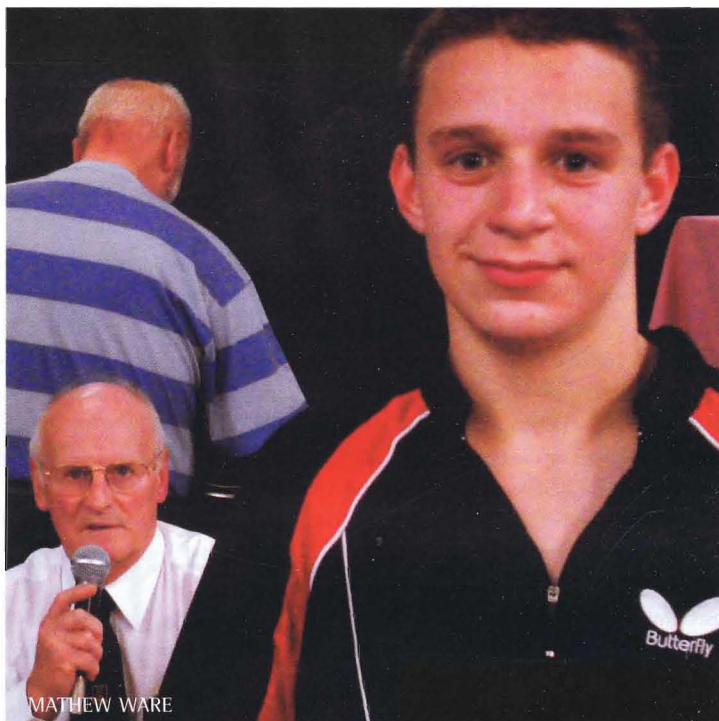
Looking forward to new season challenges. One of the first, as NPC Dy Juniors, is first Junior Premier. weekend and what players to invite. Alan Fullwood, Jamie Smith and Tim Mitchell are all over-age so we have younger lads now. Cippenham is a decent venue - good atmosphere, good food, friendly hosts. Not Guy Fawkes weekend, as has been for years, so although missing the huge Legoland display we can see home events this year!

As I was born there a few years ago, sorry to see Cheshire relegated (victims of a clashing event - it would be nice if this happened rarely, especially on Premier Division weekends) and looking forward to seeing Paul Ingham and team back again soon. Often wonder - had I stayed in Cheshire would not have been Colin Deaton or Derrick Marples to learn from, but they do have good coaches there. On subject of The Deaton Family it is sad that there have been three bereavements in Sandra Deaton's family this year so our thoughts go to her and rest of the family. Good news is that it is very pleasing to hear that Nicola and Alex have a baby, Matthew James, who by now will be several months old!! (shown left)

Some enterprising Derbyshire players have been experiencing foreign play earlier in the year. Sam Pery in Sweden and Shaun Marples some training and a Czech tournament. And, of course, led by Derrick Marples and Tony Chatwin, Shaun with Adam Frost went on the annual England trip training with the Saudi Arabian team. Wonder if they had good weather

ROUNDUP

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like us - in their case depending on whether it was only hot, hotter or cooking!
Good to hear Matlock had a Summer League this year. Although tournament players, logically, have a rest from matches in the off-season it is nice for those wanting competition and useful match practice when needed. Town leagues are underway - Chesterfield having five divisions of twelve teams and Derby four divisions of ten teams. Hope to report more later with further information on all leagues.

One of the things I aim to include in this column, along with more town information, is reporting on all Derbyshire clubs. So, if they would like to send me details, especially of any clubs I may not have visited, then please do. Also, young players interested in county team and other events do contact me and Hon. Sec. Leslie Allwood as we always like to have an extended Junior County Squad for all interested players.

Devonshire by John Vincent

Sally Smith, a Devonport High School for Girls pupil, who plays for DML Woolwell in Division One of the Beacon Electrical Plymouth and District League has enjoyed a very successful season in the schools competitions. She became Devon Schools under 19 Champion and was

selected for the England 'B' team in the School Home Internationals which were held in the Isle of Man on 23-25 June. In the under 18 team event Sally teamed up with Stella Davis to win bronze medals behind Wales and England 'A'. She lost only to Naomi Owen (Wales) and Sarah Perks (England 'A'), and had a first ever victory in straight games against former England no 5 junior, Gemma Yarnley (England 'A'). Having won the Under 16 individual event last year, she came close to repeating the performance in the Under 18s. Sally avenged her defeat in the team event to Sarah Perks in the semi-final, but in the final Naomi Owen proved too strong and Sally finished with the silver medal.

Richard Marshall, another member of DML Woolwell, must be congratulated on making his England debut as a Cadet in the Six Nations Championships after coming second in the Cadet Masters. He was then selected for the European Youth Championships in July in Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina. What a thrill for Paul Whiting and his team of coaches seeing and helping the talented Marshall go to the top. Richard has made tremendous progress over the past 12 months.

The Plymouth League were very pleased to see their team of Marshall, Chris Smith and Freddie

Cutler regain the Carter Cup which they previously won in their Centenary Year 2002/2003.

Vicky Smith, who is only 10 years old, burst onto the scene this year with an excellent performance at the National Under 11 - Under 14 Championships held at Crystal Palace. There were 33 entries in the Under 11 girls' event where Vicky, came runner up to Emily Bates (Lincolnshire). Smith and Bates were the Under 12 doubles champions, which was a brilliant achievement. In the Under 14 doubles event the pair just lost 12-10 in the fifth game of an exciting match with the eventual champions Karina and Katherine Le Fevre from Cleveland. At these Championships Vicky played in 21 matches including doubles, winning 16 and only losing 5.

Essex by Steve Kerns

2006 Southend Closed Championships - Unseeded 15 year-old Josh Lovett exceeded all expectations to sensationally capture the Mens Singles title with superb victories over no. 4 seed John Monk, no. 5 seed Duncan Taylor, 2005 Champion Tony Halling and in the Final former England star Stuart Gibbs. Linda Murray dominated the Ladies events capturing all four events she took part in whilst the inform George Reeves captured the Veterans Singles Crown beating Stuart Gibbs 11-9, 11-6, 6-11, 11-9 in the Final.

Results of the main events were as follows

Mens Singles - Josh Lovett beat Stuart Gibbs 8-11, 11-9, 7-11 11-5; 11-4.

Ladies Singles - Linda Murray beat Caroline Cole 14-12, 11-6, 11-5.

Mens Doubles - Andrew and Tony Halling beat Josh Lovett and Stuart Gibbs 11-7, 11-8, 11-6.

Ladies Doubles - Anne Lane and Linda Murray beat Janet Finch and Shelley Woolley 11-8, 11-9, 11-7.

Mixed Doubles - Kevin Read and Linda Murray beat Anne Lane and Paul Grant 11-9, 12-14, 11-4, 14-16, 11-6.

Ladies Veterans Singles - Linda Murray beat Janet Finch 11-9, 11-5, 14-12.

Veterans Doubles - Keith Phillips and Dave Calleja beat John Poysden and John Monk 11-9, 8-11, 14-12, 11-9.

U18 Boys Singles - Josh Lovett beat Andrew Seabrook 11-5, 11-4, 11-8.

Top juniors Mathew Ware and Hannah Hicks have been spending time training at leading Swedish club Lyckeby...

Hampshire by Jeremy Wilson

Hampshire's junior players have continued their impressive progress of recent years during the summer. Top juniors Mathew Ware (shown top) and Hannah Hicks have been spending time training at leading Swedish club Lyckeby and both achieved good results in tournaments against some of the top players in Europe. Ware has continued this form back in England and was named 'player of the weekend' at the Butterfly Grand Prix event in Liverpool. Over the weekend, he played an incredible 23 matches, losing just three times. He won the under-21 singles, reached the final of the Band two men's singles and only lost in the men's singles at the quarter-final stage against eventual finalist Dale Barham. The 15-year-old Ware was also unbeaten last season in the local Bournemouth league, winning 37 out of 37 matches. This season will be Hampshire's first in the Premier Division of the junior county championships but with the likes of David McBeath, Garth Kinlocke, Ashley Willetts Annabelle Morle and Becky House to back up Hicks and Ware, the county have easily their strongest squad in recent memory.

Hertfordshire by Ann Fereday

When the 2006/7 season begins, Hertfordshire will field 6 Veteran teams, 1 Over 60, 1 Senior and 1 Junior team. Meanwhile, here are more results of local league events. Some sheets from the Cheshunt League Closed Tournament were sent to me, they appear to indicate as follows.
Men's Singles - Terry Wilson bt. Don Burns
Ladies Singles - Sharon South bt. Debbie Evans
Veteran Singles - Brian Gale bt. John Barnes
Men's Doubles - Brian Gale/Joe Torres bt. Ray Blakes/Nigel Gray
There was a close finish in Hemel Hempstead's Premier Division. Waters Garages 1 took the title with 118 points from Adeyfield 2 on 117 points. The league had a closed competition at Adeyfield in April. Here are the results as e-mailed to me but can you spot what is missing?
Open Singles - Richard Murrell bt. Ray Powell
Open Doubles - Richard Murrell/Martin Livesey bt. N.Finn/K.Masters
Veteran Singles - Andy Lewry bt. Dave Gomm
Supervet Singles - Dave Gomm bt. Ian Thomas

Handicap Singles - Dave Royal (+3) bt. Bill Higgins (-2)
Well Hemel, what happened to the ladies? There's no mention of a ladies singles, doubles or mixed! Why were none present? Can somebody let me know?
The Hertfordshire Junior Closed was held in the Barnet Centre on June 24th.
U15 Boys' Singles
Daniel Shine bt. Luke Walsh
U15 Girls' Singles
Haylee Potts bt. Tamsin Holland
U18 Boys' Singles
Ben Swart bt. Darius Atashroo
U18 Girls' Singles
Haylee Potts bt. Amee Potts
Boys' Doubles
B.Swart/D.Shine bt. D.Atashroo/S.Kong
Girls' Doubles
T.Holland/A.Moore bt. Haylee Et Amee Potts
Mixed Doubles - Haylee Potts/Darius Atashroo bt. Amee Potts/S.Kong
Thanks to Nelson D'Lima (Herts. County Junior Coach) for these results.

A few issues ago there was a piece in this column about a very promising Herts. junior - William Maybanks. He has continued to progress and was recently selected to join the ETTA team at a training camp in Saudi Arabia! The trip was titled "Saudi - British memorandum of understanding for sport and youth welfare (table tennis)". The sponsors were BAA. The English boys lived and trained with the Saudi team for a week at the end of June. William found it an amazing cultural and sporting experience, and thought it very worthwhile for the boys from both countries.

Northants by Dennis Millman

With the new season yet to get under way and no major changes imminent a flashback to last season's late events may be appropriate. As reported earlier a tremendous men's singles in the EBS Mobile Phones Ltd. County Closed was won by Greg Yarnall but in the doubles he and Chris Ross had to take second place to players from either end of the age range - John Fuller and Chris Doran. As expected Doran dominated the junior and cadet events with the exception of the Under 18 doubles in which he and Daniel Smalley were narrowly beaten by the two Matthews - Burgess and Carter. Sarah Hollis was the undisputed ace in the ladies pack, winning

the traditional treble with the able assistance of Sue Moloney and Andy Trott, with the latter being the last person to perform the feat when he succeeded in all three seasons from 1997 to 1999. Ross won the veteran singles and doubles in tandem with Steve Silk while Ken Philipson notched his fourth Over 50s' title in a row. Fuller and Gordon Shaw took the corresponding doubles. However the veteran who ended the day with the sprightliest spring in his step was Greg Dobrowolski who with Bill Fletcher won an eighth successive Over 60 doubles and then, after finishing as runner up on six occasions, beat his partner to get his name on the singles trophy for the first time. At the Kettering Closed Harborough's Andy LeButt and David Grundy dominated the exchanges with LeButt coming back from the brink to beat Grundy who then turned the tables in the Hard Bat event. In the doubles the Harborough pair proved too strong for Richard Elliott and Chris Gibbons. Helen Watts gained her fifth singles title 12 years after she won her first, but she and brother Martin were then beaten by Lee O'Boyle and her final singles opponent, Sam Johnston, in the mixed doubles. Ken Philipson won the veteran singles, but after a hat-trick of successes he lost the Over 50s to John Fuller before they combined to win the doubles. Simon Bushell took the Junior Singles for the first time but couldn't prevent Jordan Dainty and Lee Rowbotham from taking the junior doubles. The death of former Northants tennis and table tennis stalwart Colin Hogg occurred shortly before this year's inter-county week. He had begun a run of 18 consecutive county weeks in 1953, competing at Eastbourne in Group One, together with former England player Billy Knight. At the same time on the table tennis scene he was beginning a tremendous partnership with the late Bryan Bond taking the Northants doubles crown for the first time in the 1953-54 season, completing a tally of nine titles 17 years later. He won the first of five consecutive men's singles titles in 1957 with his seventh and final triumph arriving in 1971. Three years later he won the first of four consecutive veteran titles but though he continued to represent his club in the Northampton League his winning days on the tournament circuit were over. He will be sadly

ROUNDUP

COUNTY



missed by all who knew him but the men's doubles trophies presented to the County Association by both he and Bryan Bond will provide a permanent memory to a truly great sportsman.

Shropshire by Terry Ridgeway

Ludlow's Nigel Foreshew is this season's Shropshire no 1 after a series of excellent performances in the Inter-Town Championships, the County Championships and the Ludlow First division. The 37 year old combination bat defender accumulated 126 points on this year's ranking system and finished way ahead of Bridgnorth's first ever county champion Joe Hurdley who took second place with 94 points, Telford's Peter Fowell (78 points) and former no 1 for five years Tony Akeroyd (75 points) from the Albrighton Club taking the third and fourth ranking places, having slipped down from last year's no 1 and 2.

Bridgnorth's Terry Ridgeway returned to form having reached the fifth spot with 65 points, and Shrewsbury's highest placed players are Matt Croft (59 points) and Darrell Corfield (56 points) who occupy the seventh and ninth positions.

Full Ranking List and Points

Previous Year

1	N.Foreshew (Ludlow)	126	6
2	J.Hurdley (Bridgnorth)	94	8

3	P.Fowell (Telford)	78	2
4	T.Akeroyd (Telford)	75	1
5	T.Ridgway (Bridgnorth)	65	16
6	J.Collymore (Telford)	60	-
7	M.Croft (Shrewsbury)	59	3
8	J.Holding (Telford)	57	8
9	D.Corfield (Shrewsbury)	56	5
10	I.Playstead (Shrewsbury)	54	-

Surrey by Chris Andrews

At the Veterans' World Championships in Bremen, Abdul Wuraola was beaten in the 4th round of the over 40s singles by Frank Kasiske of Germany.

Still only 16 years old, Darius Knight won a silver medal with his doubles partner Paul Drinkhall in the 18 and under category at the European Youth Championships in Sarajevo, Bosina and Herzegovina. The England Junior team came 5th.

At the Polish Youth Open, England won gold in the junior boys' team event and Darius Knight beat promising German Steffen Mengel. Darius also picked up a bronze medal in the Spanish Junior Open team event.

Former England and Surrey no.1 Matthew Syed has been teaching cricket's Ashes hero Freddie Flintoff how to play table tennis as part of a television programme in which Flintoff tries his hand at lots of different sports.

Joanna Parker won the Women's Singles at the K2 Crawley Butterfly Grand Prix, while Abdul Wuraola won the Band 1 event and was runner-up in the veterans event. The Doncaster Grand Prix saw Abdul Wuraola win the Band 1 and veterans events while Wahab Adam was runner-up in Band 3. Surrey had three runners-up at Cheltenham in Joanna Parker, Adam Laws and Roland McLellan in the women's singles, men's Band 1 and men's Band 3 respectively. At the Wolverhampton Grand Prix Abdul Wuraola won the Band 1 event with Wahab Adam being the runner-up in the Band 4 event.

Wahab Adam won the Band 4 event at the Blackpool 3 star Open. At the Cippenham Veterans' Summer 2 star, Robin Pretty was runner-up in the main event and Margaret Thornton won the women's consolation event. A father and son pairing of Adam Leow and his dad Lenny won the Doubles title at the Croydon Table Tennis League's Championships beating Tony Bostic and Lee Nicholls. Adam Leow also won the singles event and Lee Nicholls won the handicap singles.

Tony Laws has now been elected into the position of Surrey County Chairman while Mike Barratt has moved to Vice-Chairman, and we thank him for the good years he gave us in the top job.

We are sorry to inform you that women's world doubles over 70 and over 80s silver medallist Doris Penny has died on the eve of her 86th birthday.

Warwickshire by Caroline Williams

For the third year running, Warwickshire has had its own handbook produced and issued to every league player in the county. The handbook consists of a single A4 sheet, three-folded to provide six sections of useful information. For instance it lists the officers elected at the last AGM, showing Geoff Taylor remaining as President while Bob Montgomery has stepped down from the Chairmanship after several years, though his knowledge and experience will not be lost to the committee as he remains in contact by becoming Deputy Chairman. Estyn Williams, who has been Bob's deputy for the last two years, takes over as Chairman, to add to his work as Leamington's General Secretary. The handbook also usefully lists the league secretaries for each of the five leagues, Birmingham, Coventry, Leamington, Nuneaton

Ludlow's Nigel Foreshew is this season's Shropshire no 1 after a series of excellent performances...

and Stratford, as well as for the directly affiliated club at Rugby. To show that modern technology has come to us, e-mail addresses are shown and also the website addresses for the Birmingham and Leamington Leagues.

The County Championship tables for the relevant divisions for 2005/06 show that Warwickshire cadets did extremely well last year, coming first in Division 1A, and so will move up to the Cadet Premier for this season. With a strong set of cadets we should do well there. The juniors were runners-up in Division 2C, only losing out on countback from top spot, and so have picked up promotion to 1A. The Senior 1st team also came second in their Division (2C) and will move to 2A to play against various northern counties, whilst the Senior 2nd team, having struggled in 2A, will move to 2B to meet various west country teams. The Veterans were fifth in 3A and remain there. The Over 60s team did well in their debut season, coming third in Division 1A, where they will remain. All are wished well for the next season.

A crowded diary of events has led to the Warwickshire Closed Championships set to be held on Sunday 26 November 2006, at St. Nicholas Park, Warwick, instead of the more usual date early in the new year. As well there

are six graded tournaments to be held in Leamington and four West Midlands beginners competitions to be held, two at Leamington and two at Rugby. Rugby will also host the National Junior League and the National Cadet League, and the Warwickshire schools team and individual competitions.

Yorkshire by Barry Snowden

The annual dinner of the Yorkshire Table Tennis Association was recently held at the Wilton Ballrooms, Pontefract, with Alan Ransome as guest of honour, and proved to be a highly successful evening for Halifax with a number of their players and officials carrying off top awards.

The junior team of Jonny Giles, Elaine Li, Chris Kendall, James Berry and Alex Giles won the Yorkshire League Junior first division with a perfect record after three weekends of action in Halifax, Hull and Scarborough with Jonny Giles also taking the merit award. Hong Kong born Li, who is studying at Rishworth School, Halifax, completed a highly successful season which saw her represent her adopted county in the Junior Premier Division by taking the coveted JD Cram award for the most improved junior in the county.

Press Officer and County Championship secretary Barry Snowden picked up the annual L E Forrest award which is presented for "outstanding service to Yorkshire Table Tennis", and he also received a certificate from the YTTA for 25 years' service to the Halifax Association. Also receiving 25 years' service to their own leagues were Barry Johnson, Gordon Lucas, Peter Fletcher, John Peters, Christine Fox of Doncaster, together with Huddersfield's David Wood and John P Dunn of Keighley. Wood also picked up a Yorkshire special badge for services to the county. The County Veterans first team received special awards in recognition of last season's marvellous achievement of winning the Premier Division of the County Championships. Each squad member - Mick Stead, Tim Dyson, Richard Whiteley, Steve Cooper, Keith Rodger and skipper Linda Simpson - received a specially designed polo shirt embroidered with a white rose on the sleeve and their name and achievement on the breast. Skipper Simpson also received a special award from the Association in recognition of her achievements in the previous season's championship victory both on the playing side and her excellent efforts in skippering the team.

obituaries

Doris Penny 1920 - 2006

Doris Penny World Veterans' Ladies Doubles Silver medallist at the over 70s and over 80s died on 11th July on the eve of her 86th birthday. At the Veterans World Championships held in Baltimore, USA, in 1990 she won a Silver medal in the Ladies Doubles over 70s event, partnering a Japanese lady. In fact all of Doris's World and European medals were won in the Ladies Doubles, with ex-Welsh international Betty Gray partnering Doris in all her international successes after 1990. The other medals included: World Bronze in the over 70s, European Bronze in the over 75s, plus a World Silver and Bronze in the over 80s event.

Doris was a very determined and tough competitor and she is survived by a son and two daughters.

Betty Steventon 1912 - 2006

Betty Steventon (maiden name) died on 18th April 2006 at 94 years of age. She was a member of the England winning Corbillon Cup team at the 1948 World Championships held at Wembley.

Les Sawyer 1928 - 2006

It is with deep sadness that the Essex County Table Tennis Association reports the death of 78 year old Les Sawyer who was one of Essex's leading Table Tennis players during the 1950s and 1960s. Les played many times for both the Essex first and second teams during that period.

For most of his career Les played for Romford Road T.T.C. in the exceedingly strong East London League, which he also represented many times at inter-league level. Les' playing successes were by no means confined to the County scene as he was a regular competitor on the "Open" tournament circuit where he won a number of singles and doubles championships. With the modern game as it has developed and with rubber bats and the 21-up scoring system belonging to a bygone era, we are unlikely to ever again see players in the mould of Les Sawyer.

John Woodford 1928 - 2006

John Woodford, 78, a former editor and contributor to Table Tennis News and long serving correspondent for the Daily Telegraph, has died after a short illness.

John began filing table tennis notes for the Telegraph in the late 1970s and covered all the sports top tournaments.

He leaves a daughter, Moira and son Stuart and partner Barbara. More to follow in the next issue of TTN.....



LIAM PITCHFORD

Currently Ranked: Number two Cadet Boys **Date of Birth:** 12th July 93 **Style of play:** Right hand attacking player **Bat/rubber type:** Peter Korbelt, Bryce/Bryce FX **Greatest TT achievement:** Winning 4 four star u13 tournaments, Runner-up u13 nationals **Favourite English player:** Andrew Rushton **Favourite International player:** Vladimir Samsonov **Favourite hobbies:** Table tennis, tennis, football **Favourite actor/actress:** John Cleese/ Michael Palin **Favourite television programme:** Big Brother **Favourite music:** The Beatles/ Red Hot Chili Peppers **Table tennis ambitions:** To play in the European Youth Championships in July **Weekly training schedule:** Every day **Favourite lesson at school:** P.E. **Favourite food:** Chinese - King Po Chicken **Favourite website:** www.bbc.co.uk/sport **Favourite place to shop:** Sports shops **What you want to do when older:** Professional table tennis player/Maths teacher **Favourite film:** Monty Python and the Holy Grail **Best piece of advice given to you by Peter Charters:** Twist from your upper body more when playing a forehand

Interview by Katy Parker

PLAYER RANKINGS 2005/2006

TOP 25 SENIOR MEN

Ranking	Player
01	COOKE, Alan (DY.)
02	PERRY, Alex (DV.)
03	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)
04	RUSHTON, Andrew (LA.)
05	BAGGALEY, Andrew (BU.)
06	KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)
07	HERBERT, Gareth (BK.)
08	YOUNG, Terry (BK.)
09	TRUMPAUSKAS, Lawrence (E.)
10	MEADS, David (DU.)
11	HOLLAND, John J (Dy) (E.)
12	BRYANT, Craig (DV.)
13	REED, Daniel (CV.)
14	BARHAM, Dale (CA.)
15	EVANS, Gavin (NG.)
16	SMITH, Mark Richard (Y.)
17	WURAOLA, Abdul (SY.)
18	MARSDEN, Michael (DU.)
19	DOLDER, Kevin (LA.)
20	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)
21	ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)
22	MARPLES, Shaun (DY.)
23	ROGERS, Chris (LE.)
24	PAPANTONIOU, Costas (MI.)
25	MOORE, Adrian (K.)

TOP 5 JUNIOR BOYS

Ranking	Player
01	DRINKHALL, Paul (CV.)
02	KNIGHT, Darius (SY.)
03	REED, Daniel (CV.)
04	EVANS, Gavin (NG.)
05	MEADS, David (DU.)

TOP 5 CADET BOYS

Ranking	Player
01	EVANS, Gavin (NG.)
02	PITCHFORD, Liam (DY.)
03	MCBEATH, David (HA.)
04	DAYBELL, Kim (YS.)
05	LOWE, Daniel (DY.)

TOP 5 UNDER 13 BOYS

Ranking	Player
01	GRAY, Lewis (K.)
02	MITCHELL, Edward (BU.)
03	WALKER, Sam (NG.)
04	BOULT, Joshua (CH.)
05	HO, Ping (MI.)

TOP 5 VETERAN MEN

Ranking	Player
01	WURAOLA, Abdul (SY.)
02	ECKERSLEY, Nigel (SX.)
03	KENNEDY, Joe (K) (E.)
04	GILES, Paul (CO.)
05	VENNER, Ritchie (SX.)

TOP 25 SENIOR WOMEN

Ranking	Player
01	PARKER, Joanna (SY.)
02	LOWER, Helen (ST.)
03	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA.)
04	BAWDEN, Natalie (E.)
05	WALKER, Georgina (DY.)
06	REYNOLDS, Lindsey (LA.)
07	SPINK, Lauren (NK.)
08	ROBERTS, Joanna (Y.)
09	PEERS, Clare (CH.)
10	SHEPHERD, Karen (CH.)
11	KEAST, Lesley (LI.)
12	WILSON, Naomi (SO.)
13	SMITH, Karen (LE.)
14	RADFORD, Lisa (DV.)
15	CHAPMAN, Gemma (BK.)
16	WHITE, Nicola (Y.)
17	RAINTON, Rosemary (SX.)
18	BALDI, Andrea (YS)
19	COHEN, Michele (SG.)
20	HOWARD, Alice (CH.)
21	BRISTOW, Angie (K.)
22	WANG, Lucy (E.)
23	YARNLEY, Gemma (K.)
24	NARENDHRAN, Aparna (MI.)
25	HARPER, Sandra (BD.)

TOP 5 JUNIOR GIRLS

Ranking	Player
01	SIBLEY, Kelly (WA)
02	SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI)
03	SPINK, Lauren (WK)
04	WANG, Sarra (E)
05	VICKERS, Emma (DY)

TOP 5 CADET GIRLS

Ranking	Player
01	SPRINGTHORPE, Lauren (LI.)
02	WANG, Sarra (E.)
03	VICKERS, Emma (DY.)
04	HALLOWES, Caroline (CH.)
05	FARQUHAR, Melanie (BK.)

TOP 5 UNDER 13 GIRLS

Ranking	Player
01	BATES, Emily (LI.)
02	DAVIDSON, Lucy (DY.)
03	KING, Yolanda (SX.)
04	FURNIVAL, Chelsea (SX.)
05	WHYTE, Chloe (CV.)

TOP 5 VETERAN WOMEN

Ranking	Player
01	HUANG, Shu (K.)
02	SMITH, Karen (LE.)
03	JOHNS, Jan (CH.)
04	HARPER, Sandra (BD.)
05	MUDGE, Kim (K)



For the full list of player rankings go to our website

www.etta.co.uk



DATES

for your diary

Table Tennis events
for October 2006

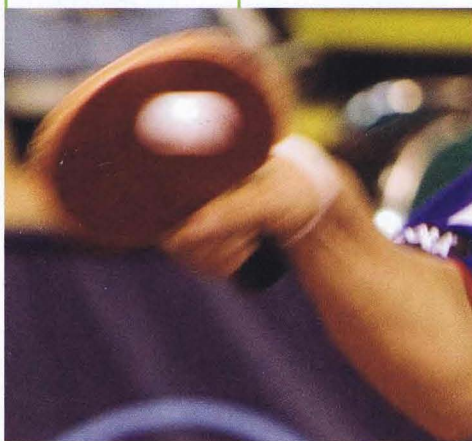


Sunday 1st: **Junior:** Stiga Blackpool 4 Star • **Senior:** Women's British League • **Other:** Cardiff Open (Butterfly GP satellite tournament)

Saturday 7th: **Cadet:** Youth Development Squad, Regional Training • **Junior:** Chesham U/18 Boys & U16 Girls • **Senior:** Clare Pengelly Memorial 3 Star, Paignton (Butterfly GP satellite tournament)

Sunday 8th: **Cadet:** Youth Development Squad, National Cadet League • **Senior:** Clare Pengelly Memorial 3 Star, Paignton (Butterfly GP satellite tournament)

Saturday 14th: **Junior:** British League • **Veteran:** VETTS Midland Masters, Wolverhampton.



Sunday 15th: **Junior:** British League • **Veteran:** VETTS Midland Masters, Wolverhampton.

Thursday 19th-22nd: **Other:** The Mad4-Rackets.Com English Racketlon Open, Birmingham

Saturday 21st: **Cadet:** East Midlands 4 Star • **Senior:** Crawley Open (Butterfly GP tournament)

Sunday 22nd: **Cadet:** East Midlands 4 Star • **Senior:** Crawley Open (Butterfly GP tournament)

Saturday 28th: **Cadet:** U12 Training Squad • **Junior:** County Championships (1), County Premier (1) • **Senior:** County Championships (1) • **Veteran:** County Championships (1)

Sunday 29th: **Cadet:** U12 Training Squad • **Junior:** County Premier (1), Stiga 3 Star G.P., Halton



The Association would like to thank all of the following for their support during the season 2005/06

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